WE HAVE RETURNED!

FOLLOW THE CROWD

ISSUE 5

25 PENCE

STALAG 17

CHUMBAWAMBA

RAMONES

ONSLAUGHT

PARANOID VISIONS

CRUCIFIED BY CHRISTIANS

XPOZEZ

The RAbid DrivELLiNG OF A HaLfWiT OR (THE INTrODUCTION)

Alas, from the deepest bowels of Omagh comes the fifth issue of Follow The Crowd, full of spelling mitsakes, typing mistakes and every other literary abomination known to the human race. You may have noticed (what do you mean you haven't?) that this issue has taken a severely long time to come out, this is due to boredom, laziness and apathy on everyones' behalf towards doing the 'zine. It could have been put out earlier but I felt that to put out sub-standard trash every month or so is no good at all to anyone, so this time I've went for more indepth (sounds good doesn't it?) lengthy interviews with bands who inspire me to write rather than any old group just to fill up space and do the usual 'punk rock fanzine norm'.
There was to be a free flexi-disc with this issue but for reasons of the monetary variety, that had to be shelved. A flexi may be put out in the not too distant future though but who knows? Who cares!?!
The print run of every issue of FTC has been more than the previous one and this issue is no exception so I would be grateful if anyone dependable could manage to flog a few copies for me. The reason more are printed each time is that I find it pointless printing up the same amount and selling them to the same people, I thought 'zines were supposed to get accross to more people? If fanzines are to be any credible alternative to the national weeklies (weak lies) then people must take time, effort, pride and patience in what they are doing and continually try to better their product and not put out a load of badly printed, badly written (FTC?) fanziney shit. There are a lot of brilliant 'zines about at the moment but due to lack of space I cannot review or mention them all, but they are there if you even try to look for them. Which leads me on nicely to the next moan...why when I sold over 400 copies of FTC*4, did I only see it mentioned in about 4 or 5 'zines? Has someone got a spite against me?Had they not enough reviewing room? Am I paranoid? These questions and more will be answered in the next episode of.....

Another thing that seems to be creeping back into 'zines is the totally band orientated stuff, there are plenty of other worthy people and subjects to write about, it doesn't necessarily have to be about bands to put in a 'zine y'know, and I don't mean the boring 'here we go again' lectures on socialism/bombs/animal rights/anarchism etc etc. If these or many other subjects put accross to people, then it's about time another new, less boring way of doing it was found 'cos I'm (like a lot of folk) just about pissed off with picking up 'zine after'zine and finding the same old dung all over the place. Admittedly, after all that groaning, we haven't exactly wrote any great and original (making excuses for ourselves already) masterpieces of articles in this 'zine. This is not because we don't care and are content to sit back and criticise everyone else, but because if I were to do an article I would rather it to be exactly what I think and not the mish mash of crap which usually ends up on paper, and which will probably put people off what I was trying to say in the first place. Come to think of it, what right has anyone got to moan about things when they don't try to do better themselves? Why did you not right something for this 'zine? Why did I right something for this 'zine? What's it all about? What's the meaning of life? Answers on a postcard to....

SAY HELLO AND WAVE GOODBYE TO: "THE FOLLOW THE CROWD" "PLAYLIST"

1. I Am Drowning.....Rod Stewart/Richard Branson
2. Drown Drown.....Status Quo/Richard Branson
3. A View To A Watery Grave.....Simon Le Bon/Richard Branson
4. Drowning In The Sea Of Life.....Apostles/Richard Branson
5. Wherefore Art Thou Noah?.....J.Christ/Richard Branson
6. Like A Virg Record Company.....Madonna/Richard Branson
7. What Shall We Do With The Drowning Sailor?...?/Richard Branson
8. Waterhead.....Motorhead/Richard Branson
9. Drowning In The UK.....Sex Pistols/Richard Branson
10. Welcome To The Pleasuredrown.....FGTH/Richard Branson

Well, that's about the end of the introduction (yippee), thanx to everyone who done anything for this, anyone who showed an intrest and thanx to the zillions of people whose names I won't even attempt to list 'cos it would probably take up half the 'zine and I'll still have forgotten someone! As it's trendy to end these introductions with a really deep philosophical (?) quote here goes....better to get up and fight, than to sit down and sh...!

All mail to.. DOE, 34 GARDENVILLE AVE, OMAGH CO TYRONE, N.IRELAND. BT79 7DB.

WAKE UP.5.50p.

50p may seem like a lot of money for a 'zine but it is worth every penny 'cos it's full of really long interviews with the likes of Redskins, Neurotics, A.Upstarts, New Model Army, Action Pact etc etc. Definitely a completely different class of 'zine than yer usual dross, brilliant printing, tons of pictures, good articles, good cartoons in fact there's not much that I don't like about it except it does get a bit too bitchy about Crass and 'anarchist' bands, to say that this man doesn't like Crass is the understatement of the year! But no matter what you think about that, Wake Up IS the best 'zine I've seen in '85 and is a definitive must for anyone who thinks 'zines are crap, if this doesn't change their mind then I don't know what will!! From.... Dave, 12 Sutherland Drive, Lowestoft, Suffolk. NR32 4LP.

NEED I REMIND YOU TO SEND LARGE SAES WHEN SENDING OFF?

For a large list of fanzines, records, tapes etc write to Carnage Distribution, 7 McIvor Villas, Killyclogher, Omagh Co Tyrone, NI.

9 YEARS ON.20p.

This 20 page A5 'zine is a real joy to read, for some reason there's a great 'feeling' to it.(cosmic or wot) Good decent length interviews with the likes of Xpozez, Final Warning, N.O.T.A.. Skeptix plus much much more assorted wonders such as reviews etc. Good printing as well, from...Graeme, 26 Main Road, Trimdon Village, Co Durham. TS29 6QD.

THE SMELLIEST BREATH.2.15p.

Wot about that for a title then? The size of paper this is printed on must have been a deliberate ploy to live up to the title 'cos it's the most rare size I've ever seen, anyway inside is good well laid out ints with Dirge,Xpozez, SAS,Anti System Stupids and more, yet another 'zine with a feel of optimism about it so charge out now and send your 15p to. Richard, 3 Paddock Close, Wyke, Bradford, W Yorks, BD12 9LB.

This interview was done by Vulture of LAMF, and I am very grateful to him for taking the time and effort to do it. Thanx a lot also to Crucified Christian Agar for answering the questions in such a lengthy manner, it's much appreciated. Vulture tells me (because I have never heard CBC) that they're pure energy, a group to liven up any gig, a real Geronimo! Here's the bands address if you want to get in touch with them.....

AGAR, 5 KIER HARDIE TERRACE, SHOTTON, COUNTY DURHAM DH6 2PS.

CRUCIFIED BY CHRISTIANS

The name CBC, what anti-religion? Pro-religion? What/where did the name evolve from?

AGAR. Well, the name Crucified By Christians means absolutely nothing to me personally, but various other people have voiced their opinions on it. Some thought w e were a load of Devil worshippers and some even thought it was a front for a group of Gospel singers! Form your own opinion!!

The name was thought up by a lad from Peterlee called Doyley. He used it as a title for one of his songs, and us being enterprising souls decided t hat we would use it for our name. (with Father Doyle's blessing of course!!)

What's the N.E. of England like for gigs, and more important what's the crowd reaction like?

AGAR. I'm afraid it's the same story in the NE as it is all over, a huge lack of venues, total apathy, clubland routines and a season ticket for t he Pistols 'Nowhere' bus for most people! Crowd reaction can be varied, for instance, when we play at Peterlee (our home town) the response is really pathetic as far as numbers on the dance floor is concerned, but when we play at Darlington the response is incredible-thanx to the Darlington Funnel Freax!

A-lot of bands reject labels, would you regard yourselves punk orientated? Do you have to adapt your music to the type of audience you expect to attend your gigs?

AGAR.We obviously are punk orientated because at one time or another we've been in punk bands/ listened to and loved punk records. Maybe I'm attracting criticism by declaring myself as punk 'coz every fanzine you read these days has at least one article in it about new labels 'dehumanize' 'restrict' and 'hinder' a person. Well, that's tough shit kiddies, because you wouldn't have t hought twice about calling yourselves 'punks' before Crass came out, so stop echoeing Crass' views and air your own! To tell the truth, I only declare thatI'm a punk to be awkward 'cos it' so hip these days to say "who me? I was never a punk, I'm just a person" -boring! I've always thought and did the opposite to people and I will continue to do so!!

Which subjects feature in your songs?

AGAR. Most of our songs are gut reactions, fantasies and dreams mixed with anger. We have one song which means a lot to me "My God". I wrote it 'cos I was pissed off with the way people thought it was hip to be anti-religious. "Devil's Daughter" is about this statue in Shottan, it stands on the site were the old church used to be. In fact it's the only thing left of the church were I was christened. "Gun" is about suicidal people and con merchants, it describes a phase I was going through. Our songs are more important to us than our image - far more!!

Does the fact that there are very few record companies willing to release anything these days put you off continuing the band?

AGAR. The very last thing which will split the band will be the lack of a recording contract. I think the factors that will split the band will be i) If the original ideas of the band 'passion' 'fire' 'energy' and 'excitement' become stale and,

ii) If the audiences' reaction slumps drastically. We won't be like the UK Subs, slogging on with no target at the end.

Obviously it would be nice to release a record but there's not a lot wecan do if Red Rhino, Situation Z, Criminal Damage and Volume don't reply!! We got a promising reply of Marcus Feath arby (Pax Records) but we've heard nothing for a few months, apparently Pax has gone bust!! I've got a personal ambition, and that's to release a record on Volume Records , 'coz we haven't received ano reply of them yet. We reckon if they sign shit like the Toy Dolls and Reality Control then they'd sign any fucker! -Wait and see!!

Do you have any gigs lined up?

AGAR. Well, we're plating Darlington Arts Centre on Feb 9th with Attila The Stockbroker, and we'll probably be playing with Brigandage in London sometime in March. (Both probably over about 3 years ago knowing how regular this 'zine comes out - Doe).

crucified by christians

Would you play a Miner's Benefit gig?

AGAR. We have played a Miner's Benefit gig and we were supposed to have been playing another on Feb 7th at Peterlee Labout Club with Attila and Red London, but this had to be cancelled because the hall was double booked! Victory To The Miners!!!

Is punk Dead?

Yes it is most certainly dead. Punk nowadays is too fashionable, people are more interested in 'looking the part' than bringing about change, it's laughable really! Punk will probably never come back so it's best to look to the future and try and regain the pride and to learn the lessons punk taught us! Bands like GBH, Chaos UK, Major Accident etc are a joke and are not to be taken seriously. I'd class the likes of Penetration, Damned, Raped, Crisis, Eater etc as 'punk' bands and not the other useless cunts like GBH and co. Crass are really good because they are really genuine, they put their money were their mouths are, and that can't be said for many bands!!!

A "QUIET" DAY IN THE COUNTRY—

Every year, the fields around Formby play host to a sick and gruesome massacre - hare coursing. As this evil ritual takes place so near to my house, yours truly decided to go down to protest.

So on Wednesday 27th Feb I bunked off school (so close to my exams too, oh what an anarchist!) and went down to Formby station where I had seen the protestors meeting the day before. I took the quiet route to the station so as to avoid all the kids who would see I was bunking off and have me suspended (both from the school and my neck). So off I went in my usual gear - all black and loads of studs - punk image, so I'm told) and must have met every one I know, but that didn't deter me and when I reached the station I met three others protestors and we waited for around half an hour wondering were everyone else was. Later we found out that 5 minutes beforehand, a gang of thugs hired by the coursers had been down there looking for us protestors! So one of my fellow protestors rang up the anti-bloodsports people and found that we could get a lift from Southport Infirmary were several protestors who had been beaten up earlier on were being treated. We jumped on the train to Southport only to be taken back to a squat near Liverpool were the main bulk of t he protestors were. We had dinner then all pile d into assorted vehicles and were driven to the coursing fields . During the journey we were followed by a Police man on a motorbike which I fail to believe was 'in our own interests'.

When we got to the fields we found we had twenty yards or so between us and the line of mounted Police who were guarding the fields. It was impossible for us to invade the fields because of the River Alt (Alf?) which just happened to be flowing between us and the pigs so we all made a lot of noise in order to "putt the dogs off, scare the hares away from the fields and generally ruin the courser's day".

At this point I think I'd better describe what hare coursing is all about. Firstly, the re is a main field were the chase takes place and were all the spectators are. Then there's a second field adjacent to the first where there's usually a large number of hares hiding. Then a line of 'beaters' walk through the second field scaring the hares into the coursing field. As the hares run through the narrow entrance to the coursing field they pass a shelter. On the other side of this shelter is a bloke holding two greyhounds and he lets them go when the hare runs past him. The two dogs then run after hare, catch up with it and rip it up if it isn't lucky.

Although the coursers say we put the hares off by making a lot of noise, I would tend to disagree with this because a suprisingly large number of hares escape considering the small distance the hare is given before the dogs are let loose on it. Anyway, back to the protest, As we reached our side of the river, a hare was running across the field closely pursued by two vicious dogs amid shouts of "bastards" and chants of "scum" and "look who you're protecting" from us. The hare was unlucky and was literally ripped into two halves by the dogs! Then the protestors started asking some of the beaters on the other side of the river over for a scrap and they declined with the stupid moronic grin of someone protected by the pigs.

Then the PA was set up and it blasted feedback out across the countryside but wasn't very effective as it soon became unnoticed. The most effective 'weapon' in my opinion, was the fireworks; as the bloke let the dogs go they would be fired, mortar style, and would explode with suprising volume over the heads of the dogs.

A few of us then went off to see what this bloke behind us was doing (to me it looked like he was shooting animals with a gun, and suprise, suprise, I was right!) We approached him in a very non-violent manner and he was told to "piss off with his gun" and he did! This just goes to show that pacifism works, Crass were right all along.

On our way back to the protest we were approached by the pig on the motorbike who had followed us earlier. He asked us where we were from and what where we doing (1984 the book or what?) We didn't answer as we weren't obliged to.

When w e arrived back at the protest, a photographer had appeared and was busy taking photos of us, then a TV camera appeared and after a brief scan of t he demonstrators, buggered off again. A woman from the radio (I presume) came to the opposite side of the river in order to speak with our spokesman, but she ended up speaking to us all because we're democratic!

After that, things died down a bit as fewer hares were being scared out and the pigs started laughing at us. This was met with bitterness and a constant stream of abuse was hurled in their direction. Soom the coursers started to pack up and it was time for us to go. I got a lift down to the outskirts of Liverpool and waited im the bus queue with a few others and who should get off the bus but a small group of hare coursers! The meeting was a peaceful on one and was treated with a great deal of humour by both sides although were still wary of each other.

When I got on the bus, I noticed that I was covered from head to toe in mud and was completely knackered. I even had to walk the last half mile home but it was still a very worthwhile day although you would have seen a different story on the news!

Incidently, on this particular day, a helicopter was supposed to come down to the protest to help the protestors but it never appeared. The people who were hiring out theis helicopter said it was due to fog over Blackpool, but when we asked a bloke at nearby Woodvale Airport he said "rubbish, see that plane up there (he pointed to the sky) (well, I wouldn't think he'd point to the river! Sorry, - Doe) that's just come from B'Pool"

The general theory is that the helicopter was grounded by the pigs.....

JUST ENOUGH SPACE HERE TO TELL YOU ALL SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT AND OF GREAT INTERNATIONAL CONCERN! —THE POLITICAL + ECONOMIC VACUUM IN WHICH WE EXIST TODAY

THIS ARTCLE WAS DONE BY RICHARD STIRLING OF FORMBY, LIVERPOOL

CRUCIFIED BY CHRISTIANS

Does the name CBC deter any venues from booking you?

So far, we've had no hassle due to the name but we got a good laugh last week when a friend of Boysey's dad said " with a name like that, I bet you get more gigs at Easter than Christmas". Quite funny really!

Do you think that the groups in the area help each othe r enough?

I don't know about the rest of the nath east, but in Peterlee most of the bands will let you use their equipment, there's no nastiness at all This goodwill has been brought about by the formation of Peterlee Musician's Collective. Oh yes I'd just like to mention to other bands that if they ever play a gig with Pagan Ritual, take your own drum kit, 'cos theur drummer gets really stroppy and starts to cry if you want to use his. I wouldn't care but it's an old knacker who knows it may be an antique!! (laughs). (Cant see anything funny about that at all - Doe)

Anything else to add?

Hello to Darlington Funnel Freax
" " Christians Travel Crew. "Passion And Strength, Lots Of Love, God Bless"

BRILLIANT JOKE!!!? Q WHAT IS A WOG? A. A WUMP OF WOOD!

BUTCHERING BABIES

I'm lying on the operating table
They've stopped the haemorrage - condition stable
The baby's gone - took away
It'll never see the light of day
In a bucket it will die
Because I believed his stupid lie

"Get rid of the baby, it's the only way
'cos I can't help you, I can't stay"
It wasn't love, but I was fooled
My heart over my head ruled

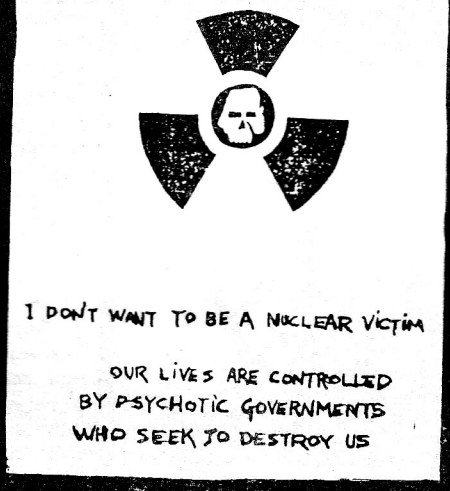
Now I lie here with the guilt women must bear
Just because he didn't care
I feel like a murderer, life I killed
My heart is heavy, with remorse filled
Were you worth this child's life?
Or my butchering by a surgeon's knife?

I feel tampered with and not too proud
I want to scream my pain out loud
Let me warn others of my bad luck
And believe me, no man is worth a fuck!!!!

POEM BY SPANNER FLY

Paranoid Visions are (at the moment anyway) a 6 piece band from the place were a certain black liquid with a white head is made (I'll not tell you the name of this substance 'cos they made 70 million pounds profit last year and still put the price up!) and that's just a roundabout, space-filling way of saying [redacted] the band are from Dublin.'From The Womb To The Bucket', apart from being the best Max Bygraves type song titleI've heard, is the title of their 3rd and best (to me) demo tape. After obtaining a copy of the tape I wrote to the band with these questions for the interview, very few bands these days can inspire me when I'm not all that fussed on their music, to interview them, but the wide range of music coupled with intelligent and original lyrics on the demo did do the trick and so here we are chums! And that is the end of the boring, egotistical, "what the hell is he raving about anyway?" introduction so without further ado we start of with the first question 'cos it would be stupid to start of with the last question. (What a load of slabber!!) Questions by Michael V. and Doe, answers by Deko.

FTC: I get the impression that Dublin is a very depressing place, is it as bad as it seems, is there anything good about it at all? And as it has a high standard of living with not a lot of social 'security' how do you survive?
PV: Dublin is an apathetic dump, its a violent police ridden pus-hole on the face of this island, full of rich and poor apathetic people who give and accept shit without ever wondering why? It's a rich man's paradise were unemployment is high, police harassment is high, drug taking is high among the youth and [redacted] crime is high (Ha!Ha!) because of the poverty and frustation of the you youth. Social security is so low its really hard for people not to turn to drugs/crime or other forms of (illegal) income, or if at all possible they're sucked into the rat race where they accept low incomes, long hours and conform to society's rules; do ya wanna come closer?

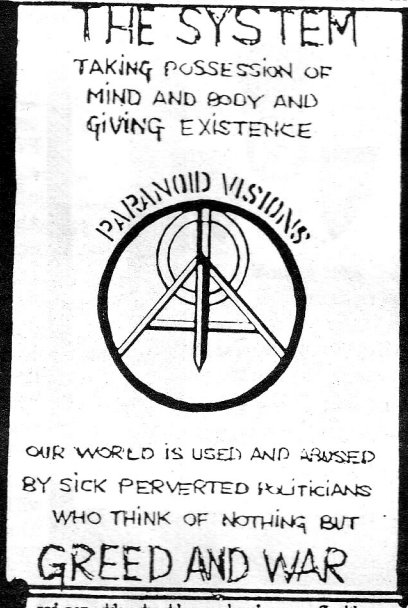

PARANOID VISIONS
IS THIS TO BE OUR FUTURE FATE?
I DON'T WANT TO BE A NUCLEAR VICTIM
OUR LIVES ARE CONTROLLED
BY PSYCHOTIC GOVERNMENTS
WHO SEEK TO DESTROY US

FTC:Was 'Strange Girl' (my favourite track by the way) wrote after the reports in the papers not too long back about the young girl who hid her pregnancy and eventually died giving birth to her child in a graveyard? Obviously the catholic churh has a lot to answer for this but with them having so much influence, can you ever see a time when contraception will be accepted in Eire?
PV: Yes, 'Strange Girl' was written after the recent tragedy of Ann Lovett whose death typifies the strangle hold of church morality which exists in Irealnd Ireland today. It's a barbaric situation which exists still but does not usually end in such a tragic way. Usually the girl ends up being cast out from her family/town/community as a tramp or whore etc. While the above situations still persist/exist we can see changes are already occuring here which eventually will shed us of church control. The recent contraception bill in The Dail was passed and even though it is a limited concession (thecondom) it still saw a victory for the state over the church who were frantically trying to influence and dominate the issue. Also now in the Republic Of Ireland, almost 30% of the population are no longer dhurch attenders dedicated church goers and almost 50% of Irish Youthare no longer church attenders [redacted] or religiousso yes, we can see the church influence being eventually crushed especially as we have only one church to get rid of unlike most countries and we see our [redacted] roles as catalystsof the changes that will come which have already started through the spread of ideas.

FTC: What's Dublin like for gigs etc, what about this Youth Expression Centre I've heard a bit about? Do you still have to change the name of the band to get gigs?
PV: Gigs in Dublin are plentiful enough if you're in a nice, safe, mindless R'n'R drone band with a nice, middle class trendy audience, but as regards alternative venues, they are just not there, and while the apathy and ignorance of Dublin society is to blame for this, the violence and mindless vandalism at Dublin venues is a contributary factor to this 'nowhere to play' syndrome. The Youth Expression Centre is closed down also for the reasons mentioned above, despite the very hard work of some of the organisers who just didn't get the support from within or from society to keep the venture open. And yes, we do still have to change our name for gigs, though not as often as before because we don't play as much!

FTC: Nearly every time I read a line-up of the band there's a change or two, why can you not keep a constant line-up, and why 7 or 8 members with three vocalists, is it to keep away from the 'rock band norm' of3-4-5 members?
PV: Yes it's true we've had line-up changes, but not too many,in 4 years we've only had 3 departures from the band and in that time we've added extra people. We're now a 6 piece band!!! No, it's not to get away from the 'rock band norm' but to vary our sound and personality. We're an experimental band and will experiment with anyone who has similar views to ours and wishes to express them musically. (We're searching for an anarcho-no cultticide-saxaphonist!) Joke!

FTC: In the song 'Detention' you seem to be totally against prisons, would you like all prisoners to be released? Apart from prisons, what way would you deal with murderers, rapists, muggers, drug pushers etc?
PV: Prison, being a weapon of the state used to keep people from opposing their warped norm they call society/ democracy/ capitalism etc means that yes, we are totally against prison as it stands today. It serves no purpose other than oppression and is not for the benefit of society but rather to keep the poor in line and to protect the rich. Prisoners are usually with the possible exception of 'mental prisoners' (IE-rapists, murderers, psychopaths) a product of their environment and are victims of society in that they do not have the same opportunities as those in the 'well off' sector of society, and are generally less educated, more embittered and frustrated by the wealth/greed and hate they encounter all arond them. Prison does nothing for these people except brand them, alienate them and generally abuse all they've got left -'their dignity'. Under this already existing system, prisoners like rapists and murderers are not helped in any way by being imprisoned, in fact, no prisoner is and our view is that prison, government and present day morality should be terminated and a new society founded where people are treated as people not numbers and everyone has a role none more important than the other, thus getting rid of the rich and poor, balck and white, right or left divisions which are the reasons for prisons and prisoners. No-one is a criminal in todays society, especially not those doing time for 'crimes' they were caught for but couldn't buy their way out of, and if crime does exist it's in the way countries are run, countries are exploited, wars are pursued and thus the only criminals are governments, so when the government falls, so does the'crime rate'!


THE SYSTEM
TAKING POSSESSION OF MIND AND BODY AND GIVING EXISTENCE
PARANOID VISIONS
OUR WORLD IS USED AND ABUSED BY SICK PERVERTED POLITICIANS WHO THINK OF NOTHING BUT
GREED AND WAR

FTC: I believe you have had dealings with Bluurg was this just to release your tapes and to get The Subhumans gigs in Dublin or is there any chance of a record on the lable?
PV: No,our only dealings with Bluurg is on the release of our 3 tapes and friendship with The Subhumans. As far as we're aware no record has been discussed with the label.
FTC: Has the new demo had a better reaction than the first two, I feel that the studio experience shows a lot on FTWTTB, how do you feel about the first two demos now?
PV: Yes, the new demo has brought much more response than the others, and is outselling them and in the bands opinion it is our best work to date. Yes, our studio experience is beginning to tell now, but we're still not pleased with the quality of sound of this demo despite the praise it has recieved from everywhere. We'll be doing our next tape in an 8 track or 16 track studio and not on the 4 track we've used upmto now, of the other demos, while I feel they were good at the time, the sound could have beenbbetter and they are very patchy in songs/quality and ability. Yes, we've improved since but are in no [illegible] way ashamed of our past releases.

FTC: Your third demo title, 'From The Womb To The Bucket' is obviously a comment on abortion, was this thought up when The Dail were voting om the abortion ammendment, what was the outcome of the vote? The demo also has the quote "abort the system not the unborn", does this mean that you're totally against abortion no matter what the circumstances, ie-rape victims becoming pregnant etc?
PV: No, this song was written 2 years before the abortion ammendment and is most definitely a comment on abortio abortion. In this song we just don't condemn the action as a waste, we are more attacking the reasons why this course of action has to be taken by young women in our country, We're not condemning people who've aborted their pregnancies or those who at present have/will take this action but rather we are condemning the apathy which surrounds the contraception issue, the church for their subhuman attitude to women, the male dominance and the lack of sex education, and the backward pious attitude of the Irish people to sex, morality and plain humanity. It is always, in our view the woman's choice, but when that choice is interfered with by the laws, church or attitudes of a state then the resultant action taken is not a free choice of the individual. The abortion ammendment was passed, so now the state has re-affirmed that abortion will not take place in nice catholic Ireland, but they have done nothing to help the causes or change the church control, the laws, or the education standards of the Irish people towards sex, thus the quote "abort the system not the unborn". This song was generally written about the Republic Of Ireland and doesn't concern anywhere else and is essentially a shock tactic used by the band to get attention to the subject, and our view on rape victims and difficult pregnancies is that in these cases also it should be the woman's choice and that in all the cases above, the woman should be given every assistance if she chooses to have her baby, not despised/cast out/ignored by society as happens today. We are definitely not anti-women, anti-femenist or definitely not nazis, so it's our view that the choice of the women concerned is the only important thing and that, that choice is not an enforced one.

FTC: You take a no cult stance but don't you think that this itself may become a fashion and thus create a cult? No doubt you will still be regarded by the general public as a 'punk band' ?
PV: No cult is our ideal stance, and while the general public may still call us 'just another punk band' we're not and in time they'll realise that, as we have, and certainly won't lie under any label, not punk, not hippy, not no cult, not anything. We reserve the right to change, to create, to our styles, fashions, tastes, ideas, to our lives. No cult is not a label, it's a way of life!!!
FTC: I take it 'Hallowe'en' is not only about that day, but about people hiding their insecurities and masquerading behind their costumes as people they aren't? Punks?
PV: Hallowe'en is a two pronged attack on 1) the celebration of witchhunt and 2) the general public dress up outrageously punky wunky om hallowe'en night and are accepted in pubs, clubs etc, but these people wouldn't dare dress this way normally and usually dismiss/attack punks on the street. It's also a comment on the fashion mask of any cult, ie letting the mask take over your personality/mind/existence.

STRANGE GIRL

She died in a field
She died for her baby
She died like an animal
She died for you

She couldn't tell her family
She wanted a family
She never had a family
She never had a hope

Chorus
No one...no one to turn to
No where...no where left to run

They were all to busy
They said they never knew
The world was her graveyard
They said they never knew

And when this story's over
What does it mean
living in the past
It was more than a dream
For this strange girl
It meant her life
It meant her life
her life
her life.

FTC: There are a lot of different musical styles on FTWTTB, are you all schizophrenics, or is it a continuation of the no-cult stance?
PV: Yes, we're all schizophrenics, and yes it is part of our no-cult stance (ha, ha). No, seriously all the different styles on FTWTTB are accidental but are part of our will to experiment and part of our desire not to be classed or compared to any other band/bands.
FTC: Do you think you can change anyones views on any of the subjects you sing about, surely you must get down-hearted at times, so what keeps you going? If someone said that they just liked Paranoid Visions for entertainment would you be insulted?
PV: Yes, I do think we can change peoples views with our songs, we have already and we'll continue to. At gigs, no I don't think we can expect to change too many people's views because generally our view on gigs is that they are for fun, celebration, entertainment etc and the most we can do is give hand-outs and sing intelligent lyrics which we try to do. But our real strength and any bands real strength is through tapes, records leaflets and communication. No we wouldn't be insulted if people only liked us for entertainment, that would be a novelty for us. And though at times I do get disheartened with the apathy we face, I know we'll never beat apathy by giving up or hiding from it, you have to keep kicking.....

FTC: Are there any good bands fanzines etc in Dublin worth a mention?
PV: Yes, Abnormal, Doom & Gloom (nice jolly sounding names there! - Doe) are good Dublin musicians, and 'Revelations', 'Drink Till Ya Drop', 'Writings Of The Mind' and 'A New Clear Threat Threat' are fanzines which are all available from, Deko, 11 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6.

FTC: And yes chums, we come to that million dollar question, anything else you wish to add? Wowee!!!
PV: We'd like to thank anyone who bought the tape, wrote to us, put us up, travelled with us or showed any intrest in our ideala especially the Belfast punks/anarchists/fanzines/Stalag 17/Toxic Waste/Asylum/KC/ Sterile Visions/Anathema and anybody else, the Skunge drinkers/Subhumans/Dublin anarchists/punks etc. Sooner or later we've all got to unite to kick down the walls of oppression, and take back what is ours from a sick planet, let's start now, fuck our differences, history etc, and let's build a future.

Autonomy always. Deko & Paranoid Visions.

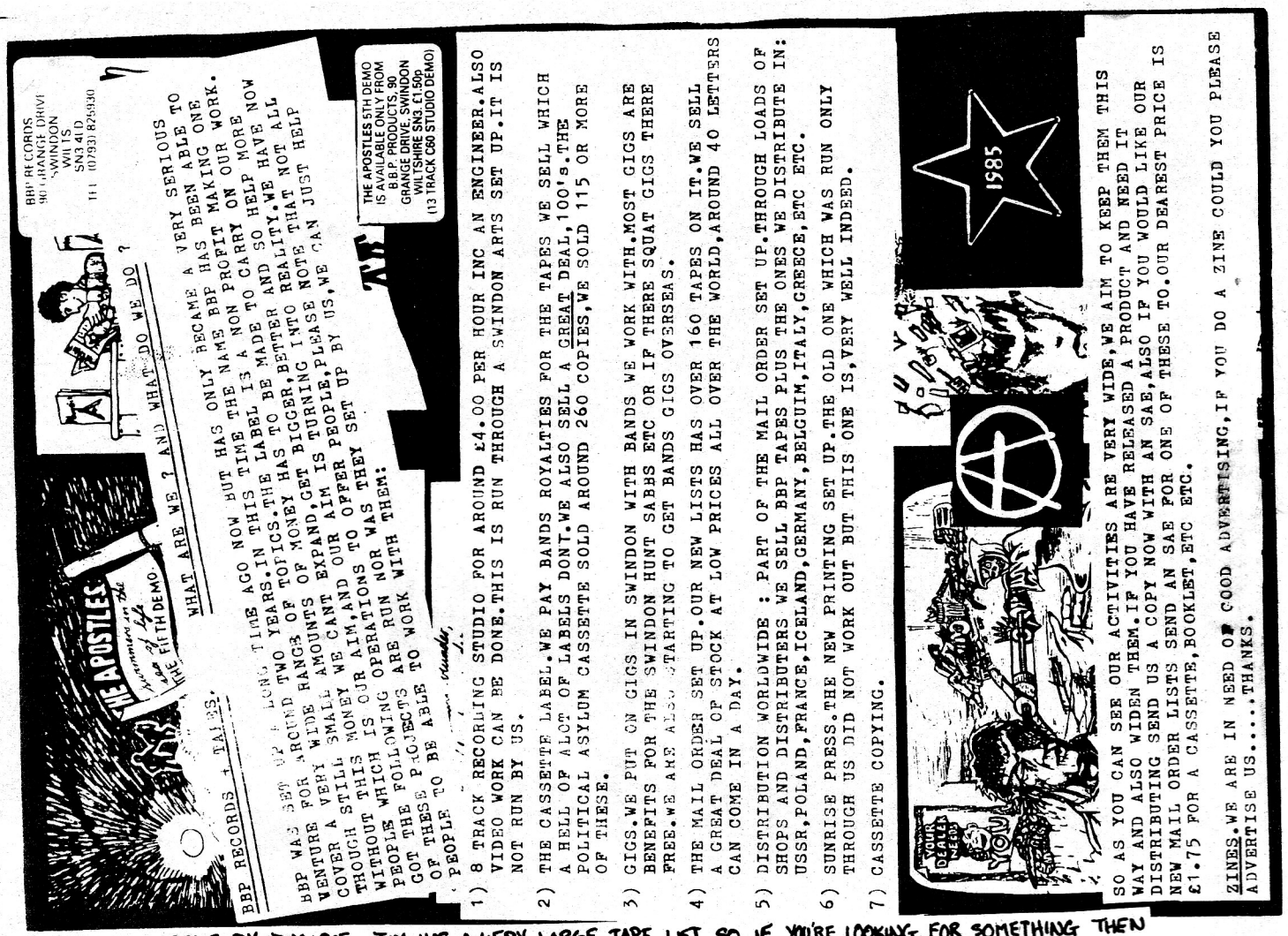
FTC: I suppose you were really proud when dear old Ronnie Reagan wisited Ireland, and were out cheering him along his merry way with Pro-NATO stickers on your face etc? (Strictly [redacted] tongue in cheek of course!!)
PV: What's wrong with Ronnie Raygun are you some kind of commie Doe eh? (ha!ha!). Yeah we all agree Reagan/Raygun is an asshole, so why bother wasting space writing about him, NATO or any other asshole tea parties. Just keep them out of here. (Now, now, don't be naughty, we here at FTC would like to take this chance to send our warmest sympathy to Ronnie after his recent operations, the 'get-sick-quick' card is in the post!

PARANOID VISIONS

Well, plenty of talking points there, thanx to Deko for writing such detailed answers etc, that's the longest interview I've ever typed up, I must say it was a pain in the arse typing it my fingers must be worn down to stumps after all that so why am I still typing? Just thought up a great joke here, it's nothing to do with Paranoid Visions but here goes.....
Q. Why did the bass-player think it was a pain in the arse playing the bass?
A. Because he kept hitting bum notes!

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaarrrrrrrrrrrrrgggggggggggggggggggghhhhhhh!

PARANOID VISIONS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WHAT ARE WE ? AND WHAT DO WE DO ?
BBP WAS SET UP A LONG TIME AGO NOW BUT HAS ONLY BECAME A VERY SERIOUS VENTURE FOR AROUND TWO YEARS.IN THIS TIME THE LABEL IS A NON PROFIT MAKING WORK. COVER A VERY WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS.THE LABEL HAS TO BE MADE TO CARRY ON OUR MORE THOUGH STILL SMALL AMOUNTS OF MONEY HAS BEEN MADE AND SO HELP HAVE NOW WITHOUT WHICH IS OUR AIM,AND OUR BIGGER,BETTER REALITY.WE HAVE ALL PEOPLE FOLLOWING ARE TURNING INTO NOTE THAT NOT JUST GOT THESE PROJECTS TO WORK WITH OF THEM BE ABLE TO BY US,WE CAN
PEOPLE TO
THE APOSTLES 5TH DEMO IS AVAILABLE ONLY FROM B.B.P. PRODUCTS, 90 GRANGE DRIVE, SWINDON WILTSHIRE SN3 4TD (13 TRACK C60 STUDIO DEMO)
1) 8 TRACK RECORDING STUDIO FOR AROUND £4.00 PER HOUR INC AN ENGINEER.ALSO VIDEO WORK CAN BE DONE.THIS IS RUN THROUGH A SWINDON ARTS SET UP.IT IS NOT RUN BY US.
2) THE CASSETTE LABEL.WE PAY BANDS ROYALTIES FOR THE TAPES WE SELL WHICH A HELL OF ALOT OF LABELS DONT.WE ALSO SELL A GREAT DEAL,100's.THE POLITICAL ASYLUM CASSETTE SOLD AROUND 260 COPIES,WE SOLD 115 OR MORE OF THESE.
3) GIGS.WE PUT ON GIGS IN SWINDON WITH BANDS WE WORK WITH.MOST GIGS ARE BENEFITS FOR THE SWINDON HUNT SABBS ETC OR IF THERE SQUAT GIGS THERE FREE.WE ARE ALSO STARTING TO GET BANDS GIGS OVERSEAS.
4) THE MAIL ORDER SET UP.OUR NEW LISTS HAS OVER 160 TAPES ON IT.WE SELL A GREAT DEAL OF STOCK AT LOW PRICES ALL OVER THE WORLD,AROUND 40 LETTERS CAN COME IN A DAY.
5) DISTRIBUTION WORLDWIDE : PART OF THE MAIL ORDER SET UP.THROUGH LOADS OF SHOPS AND DISTRIBUTERS WE SELL BBP TAPES PLUS THE ONES WE DISTRIBUTE IN: USSR,POLAND,FRANCE,ICELAND,GERMANY,BELGUIM,ITALY,GREECE,ETC ETC.
6) SUNRISE PRESS.THE NEW PRINTING SET UP.THE OLD ONE WHICH WAS RUN ONLY THROUGH US DID NOT WORK OUT BUT THIS ONE IS,VERY WELL INDEED.
7) CASSETTE COPYING.
1985
SO AS YOU CAN SEE OUR ACTIVITIES ARE VERY WIDE,WE AIM TO KEEP THEM THIS WAY AND ALSO WIDEN THEM.IF YOU HAVE RELEASED A PRODUCT AND NEED IT DISTRIBUTING SEND US A COPY NOW WITH AN SAE,ALSO IF YOU WOULD LIKE OUR NEW MAIL ORDER LISTS SEND AN SAE FOR ONE OF THESE TO.OUR DEAREST PRICE IS £1.75 FOR A CASSETTE,BOOKLET,ETC ETC.
ZINES.WE ARE IN NEED OF GOOD ADVERTISING,IF YOU DO A ZINE COULD YOU PLEASE ADVERTISE US.....THANKS.

ARTCLE ON SRG DONE BY JIM+DOE. JIM HAS A VERY LARGE TAPE LIST SO IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING THEN WRITE TO HIM... JIM "CONCRETE TAPES", 29 SHEEPWALK, PASTON, PETERBOROUGH, CAMBS, PE4 6EH

Welcome readers to the first annual report on the SRG. Now for those who don't know what the SRG is, it's the SEVENTIES REVIVAL GROUP, an organisation that hasn't been around for that long but I'm sure it will make a big impression in 1985. The group is dedicated to claiming the cult status of which it deserves. The group is open to people who have a place in their heart (as long as the medallion doesn't get in the way) for such things as THE OSMUNDS, MUD, FLARED TROUSERS (with extra different colour extention sewn in at the side of the leg), FLOWERED SHIRTS WITH MATCHING CURTAINS, SHOULDER LENGTH HAIR (optional flowery head-band) and THE SWEENEY to name but a few. Now to join this exclusive club all you have to do is to send a cheque or postal order for £500, which I think is very reasonable because for your money you you get...*1 pair of green platform shoes, *1 brown three piece pinstriped suit, *1 T Rex shirt, and for those who send in their membership form and that all important £500 before 1987, will get a very special HITS OF THE SEVENTIES 2 LP set, only available to SRG members and those dedicated to the seventies. The SRG is a non-profit making organisation, as you can probably tell by the terrific and way out gifts we are giving away to all new members. At the moment we have 2 members but as I said before, this is a very exclusive club and we just don't take anyone. That is why we send out a questionaire which has to be filled in by every prospective member.

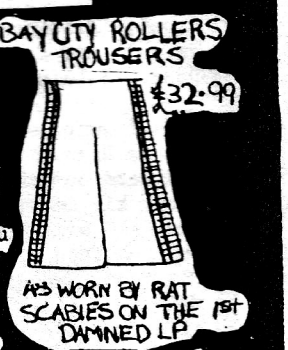
Now, on to the groups activities,we run several trips to the graves of Dead Heroes, and our first trip is to the grave of Marc Bolan, this trip is planned for mid-1989 so that's something for you all t o look forward to, eh groovies?. We also have film shows of various bands, or at least we will d o when we get the films.

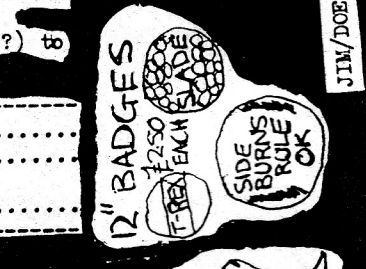
Below is the questionaire and a list of merchandise available. All corrospondance (?) to be sent to SRG C/O FOLLOW THE CROWD fanzine. BOOGIE ON DOWN THERE BABIES!!!

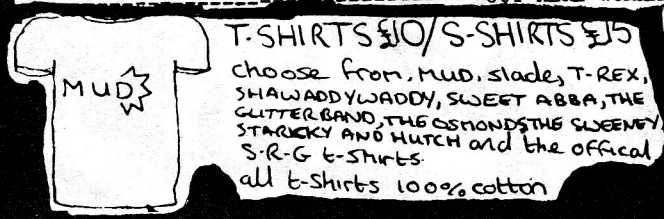
----------CUT HERE MAAN----------

Name.....Address.....Age.....
Male/Female....Occupation.....Favourite colour of green.....Favourite band.....
Favourite dream.....Spell ABBA backwards.....What is Marc Bolan's
surname.....What is the weight of Alvin Stardust's ring.....

----------CUT HERE WOMAAAAAN----------






MUD
T-SHIRTS £10/S-SHIRTS £5
choose from, MUD, slade, T-REX, SHAWADDYWADDY, SWEET ABBA, THE GLITTER BAND, THE OSMONDS THE SWEENEY, STARSKY AND HUTCH and the offical S-R-G t-shirts
all t-shirts 100% cotton
stick-on side burns exact replicas of those worn by NODDY HOLDER OF SLADE
only £1.50
PLATFORM SHOES £52

REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE LIVING

Remembrance Day For The Living was an all day festival type thing held in Queens University Belfast with around 21 bands playing for £2.50 at around the end of November '84 which also happens to be the same time of year that everyone runs around putting stacks of poppies at the base of monuments erected to 'honour' the men and women who died in wars which they blindly knew little or nothing about except the force-fed propaganda and patriotism installed by governments under the guise of protecting 'democracy' and 'freedom'. Anyway, to the festival...I was going to do a review of the whole event but decided not to bother because I didn't see half of the bands and besides, what would be the point? Everyone has their own opinion. Because I didn't review it, I sent Wally, one of the organisers, a few questions concerning the occasion so I'll stop foaming here and get on with the rest of it.....

How many people were directly involved in the organising of the festival, do you think anything positive came of it and would you do it again?
In the actual organisation of the festival there was initially about6 people. When it came to that Saturday there were about 30-40 people involved and if it had not been for those people (and others I'm sure we don't know about) we would never have actually got the thing off the ground at all.
Yes, I personally think after looking back that there was a lot of positive intrest came from the festival and as for doing it again, I would certainly be willing to get involved in something like that, but I would go into it with a more open mind about changing people's attitudes.

Why was the name'Remembrance Day For The Living' put on the event, and was the Hare K'rsna/animal aid stalls/art exhibition etc there to make it more than 'just another gig? The name RDFTL was put on the festival because that was what we wanted to make it. A festival for people living and not carry on farcities every november to justify war and human suffering. We asked the Hare K'rsna/animal aid/woman's aid and other groups to come along as we had wanted to make people more aware of the shitty way we are living - the abuse of animals etc.

Almost half the bands advertised as playing, didn't play, what were each bands reasons?
The reason why some of the bands advertised didn't play, and some who did who were not advertised was firstly, because we needed to do the posters and stuff at least a month before the festival. Therefore at that time the bands on the posters had made a commitment to playing, then for various reasons (mostly money) they felt they could not make it. There was the exception of Conflict and The Subhumans. The Subhumans had travelled over to Dublin on the Saturday morning and waited for over 8 hours to be picked up by our driver, but due to a genuine mistake, Davy the driver, had picked up The Iconoclasts and

Out Of Order at Dublin docks and had not known there was another port at Rosslare (were the Subhumans were) so he waited for 2 hours then drove back to Belfast. Then by the time he went back to Dublin and back to Belfast The Subhumans were too late to play (they could have played but the bouncers would not let them). As for Conflict, they had guaranteed up until one day before the gig that they would play - then due to some hassle their bass player had, they couldn't come. This caused us a lot of trouble too!

While the bands were on, a lot of people were wandering about outside etc, do you think that this was because their 'heroes' the 'name bands' weren't playing?
I don't know why they even bothered coming, most of them could not stand up and this gave the Queens bouncers an excuse to kick people's shit in.

Where did the bands from outside Belfast stay, and what were their views on the whole event?
All the bands were divided between Rathcoole and Belfast, and we really did appreciate the effort that people made to put everyone up. As for their views on the gig, you would need to ask them as I didn't get a chance to discuss the event with anyone.

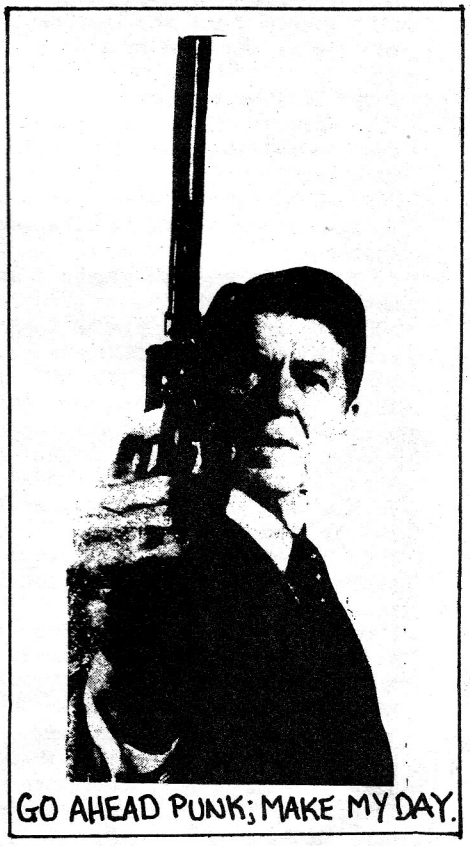
Were there many overheads etc involved, like hiring the hall/PA etc, who paid these and was there much money lost or damage done?
There was a lot of overheads for PA systems/vans and we got the hall for nothing, thanx to Stu's and Jim of Queens, but everything else was being covered by the Self Help Group and The Newtownabbey Musicians Workshop. There wasn't much damage done, but thanx to all the fucking dickheads who had to 'sneak in' (after all, it was only £2.50 in) we ended up losing over £400, most of it from everyone's own pockets, as the group had not much money - and I would like to thank everyone who helped raise money for the groups who lost money.

There was a remarkable lack of fighting at the festival considering the lot of drunks, the really really hard men trying to get on the stage at the end, the police doing their public relations stunts outside and at the bar etc, were you at all suprised by this?
No, because as we had hoped, most people came in a festival mood, but as you have said, there were the really really hard men who if they had thought, they may have realised that we were all hitting out at injustice and oppression , but by being violent towards people who were at the gig they further alienated themselves.

Anything else we should be told?
I don't think I have the right to tell anyone anything. But I do believe that people should be informed about the truth. And to me, the truth about this festival was that on the day of the event there were certain people there just to cause trouble and 'have a laugh', but I felt that these people were just shitting on themselves and others because they were totally oblivious to what was going on. And finally, I would like to see those people wising up and really having a good laugh.

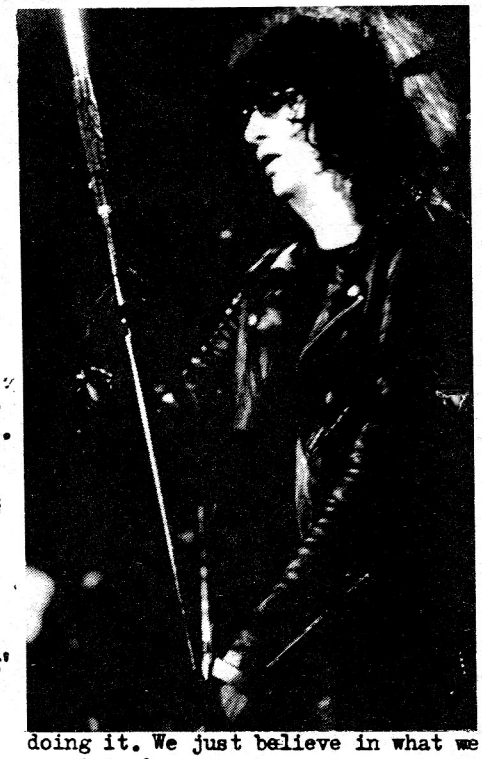
Wally

Weal, that concludes that then, thanx to Wally for answering the questions and for typing them out but sorry to him for not being able to fit it in any other way without retyping it all out again. Hope you find this interview intresting and a change from page upon page of band interviews....



RAMONES

QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST 26-6-85



It's been a long time since The Ramones played over here in Ireland, about 4 years to be exact, then it was to promote the End Of The Century album but this time to promote the excellant new album Too Tough To Die which along with showing a new angle to the Ramones sound saw the band back on form after a long time seemingly doing nothing . Anyway, we arrived at Queens at about 9.30 and were suprised to find that The Ramones were on already. My first impressions were that they had certainly not toned down and their first four songs were really powerful with the crowd dancing (?) and really enjoying themselves.

The set was mostly made up of the old songs which was a bit dissappointing but you couldn't fail but to be impressed with the excellance of oldies such as '53rd & 3rd' and 'Beat On The Brat' which had Joey waving a baseball bat and showing great restraint from using it to knock a bit of sense into the 8 or 9 bastards at the front who kept spitting. These assholes seemed intent on spoiling the night for the rest of the crowd and it soon became obvious that they were beginning to annoy the band, particularly Johnny and Joey. Nevertheless, it didn't prevent the band from delivering excellant versions of songs from their new album such as 'Too Tough To Die' then 'Mama's Boy' and 'WartHog' which for me was the best song of the night, with DeeDee really giving it all his energy.

I was looking forward to at least 3 or 4 encores as the band done the last time they were here, but, whether the band were pissed off with the crowd or just couldn't be bothered, they only returned to do one consisting of 3 or 4 songs - disappointing to say the least, the band only playing over an hour or so. On the whole the concert wasn't exactly value for money at £5.50 a ticket, and let's face it, the lobotomies at the front of the stage didn't exaclty help matters either. What the band played,I thouroughly enjoyed but they were a mere shadow of what they were in The Ulster Hall four years ago.

After the gig, a few FTC bluffers along with a YA scribe managed to corner Joey for an interview type thing (well it must have been an interview 'cos there were tape recorders, questions and answers. Get on with it pillock!!!!!!)

FTC: Well, how did the Milton Keynes gig go with U2 etc?
JOEY: It was great, we're doing another 3 festivals with U2 in Copenhagen, Belgium and Germany.
FTC: Do you think the response you get now is the same as 4 or 5 years ago?
JOEY: It's better now.
FTC: Were you disappointed with tonights crowd compared to your last show here?
JOEY: I thought it was a great show tonight except we don't like getting spat on.
FTC: Is that why you played a short set?
JOEY: We would have played longer yeah but we find it disgusting, people did it 6 years ago and you'd think it would have stopped. The ones who did it ruined the show for everyone else 'cos there was only about 10 people spitting and we fuckin' saw them too but we could'nt get to them.
FTC: Do you get spat on anywere else?
JOEY: It really doesn't happen too much anymore.
FTC: How do you think American crowds differ from the European ones?
JOEY: It's crazier now for us in America with the hardcore scene with really heavy stage diving and slam dancing. When we play over there its like a total frenzy, it's like what it used to be like in the earlier days in England.
FTC: Why are there so many of your singles taken of your LPs?
JOEY: Well, when we put out Howling At The Moon on Beggars Banque t it had two songs on the b-side which weren't on the album - Smash You and Street Fighting Man. The new single isn't on the album at all and it has two songs on it. Every band puts out a single to sell the album and usually there is a different mix. The single is a single mix and the album is a heavier mix.
FTC: How did you feel about making the videos? (Howling At The Moon and Psycho Therapy)
JOEY: Well, we don't enjoy makkng videos but nowadays it's essential. We're lucky to get a budget to make a video. Bands go out and make these lavish shitty productions, like when Psycho Therapy came out last year nobody would play it, they thought it was too violent or some shit like that. We thought it was great. Cynthia Rose, in reviewing it, said it was a classic. A lot of people don't think it was a great video 'cos I guess it doen't resemble Wham or some shit like that.
FTC: Why do you think the Ramones have lasted 10/11 years while most bands toned down or packed it in?
JOEY: We're unique and we have maintained our integrity and self respect. We never sold ourselves or our fans short. A lot of it has to do with our die-hard devoted fans. Sometimes it has been frustrating through the years but we're not one-hit-wonders. You see our fans and this makes you realise why you're doing it. We just believe in what we are doing!
FTC: Do you still get the same buzz from playing now as what you did 10 or 12 years ago?
JOEY: I get a better buzz now. I am really enjoying myself now. I'm happy. There used to be a lot of tension and bullshit going on but now I enjoy it. I think we're bigger now than we've ever been. We were big in '76, that was another high point.
FTC: The crowd you got here tonight was a lot smaller than the last time you played here, is this not a sign that the Raomes fans are getting less? (nothing to do with dwarfs)
JOEY: A lot of people are older. Since we started a lot of people May have lost intrest and maybe don't even listen to rock 'n' roll anymore now we're attracting 16/17 year olds.
FTC: How much of a difference has the new drummer Ritchie made to the band?
JOEY: I think if we hadn't got Ritchie we may have broke up. There was a period in the last few years when there was a lot of tension and shit with Mark and me plus Johnny and DeeDee just weren't getting along. With Ritchie in the band now everybidy is getting along. He's fresh and hasn't played with any major bands and it's just like new blood or whatever you want to call it, a shot in the arm. He's a really good drummer and it's like fun again.
FTC: Is that what you think is wrong with most bands today, they do not find it fun at all to play, they just go out as if it's just another job?
JOEY: Yeah, I guess the more established bands for them it's a job.Like Deep Purple now I mean I guess they are all broke and now it's time to get back, it's definitely a job.Most bands are like executives, they're not like musicians y'know, they're fuckin' executives, it's like a bus-

iness with Warren Oates or Frankie Goes To Hollywood or Duran Duran. It is not like going out and playing in a band, it's like going out and being a businessman y'know wearing your pinstripe suit and going out saying "we're going to make so much money tonight".

FTC: How many more years do you see The Ramones going on for?

JOEY: Well, I could say at least two more years. The contract we signed for is for 3 albums, Too Tough To Die is the first album of the deal. We've two albums to do but like when signing the contract we did it 'cos we wanted to, we're not obligated or anything like that. We fuckin' put out a new single now 'cos we wanted to. We don't have to do this y'know. I mean actually I wanna do a solo record but I'd like to do it and still be in the band.

FTC: Do you think by singing songs like Planet Earth 1988 and Bonzo Goes To Bitburg etc, you can change people's views or make them more aware on what's going on around them?

JOEY: Well you can make them more aware, you can make them think a bit y'know. People nowadays, with the way things are, the mediaand all do not want you to think no mare and if you do, they want to put an idea in your head about what you should be thinking about. I mean music today is bullshit music, it's all the same it's like disco or whatever you want to call it. The songs are what we believe, we don't just say well lets write a message song. All our songs right from day one were sort of things we lived through. All the songs are different, the songs are about things we went through like relationships, drugs or maybe like trying to make a statement, y'know things like to us like Rock 'N' Roll High Radio or We Want The Airwaves or Danger Zone or Bonzo Goes To Bitburg or whatever. It's just like things we see on the television or news, not necessarily of a serious nature. Since when we came out and started singing songs that we thought were funny and then 1984 a lot of people started knocking us.

FTC: How did you feel about the media calling you dumb?

JOEY: We were pissed off, it was upsetting. Like Rock 'n' roll was supposed to be simple and exciting. Rock 'n' roll turned into this like slop y'know, it was big light sets and guitar solos for ½hour or whatever and it was bullshit and that was what we were rebellin' against 'cos we were playing real exciting rock 'n' roll and then some assholes started calling us simple minded or something? But that was what rock'n' roll was always meant to be-exciting!

FTC: When you're writing a song do you write the words or the tune first 'cos it seems to me that the words be wrote to fit the tune rather than the other way about?

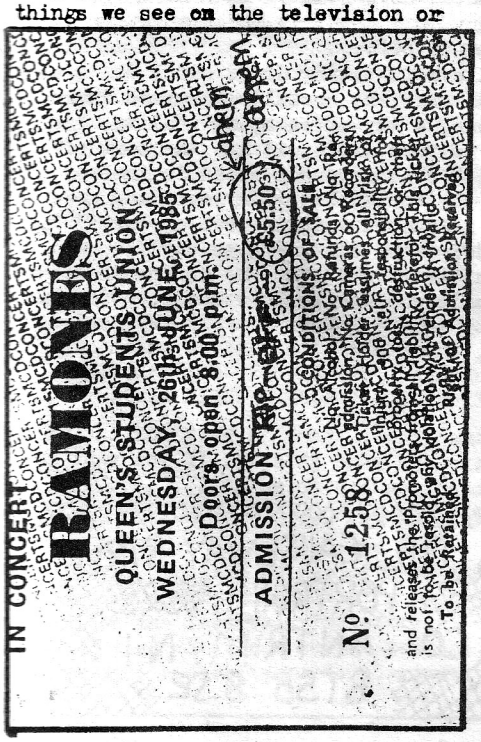
JOEY: Well we don't write together anymore and we never really did. We are individual but there were certain songs that were writtan as a band like We're A Happy Family, Teenage Lobotomy, but then most songs were written indivadually. Me and DeeDee wrote basically all the songs and sometimes we even wrote them together like Glad To See You Go, I wrote the music and DeeDee wrote the words but basically DeeDee wrote his songs and I wrote mine. In the earliest days the were real Ramones y'know.

FTC: How much importance do you put on the producers of your records?

JOEY: We, in some sense produced 'em ourselves, except we don't credit ourselves. Like, we're sort of watching over their shoulders. On Pleasant Dreams I feel like we got caught because Graham Gouldman was the wrong choice and it was a time when we were sort of in a spot 'cos we wanted to produce the record ourselves and the record company said you can't do that and there was no really nobody who would even get involved with us. I remember the first person who walked through the door was Robert Fripp and w e didn't want him y'know. And then Graham Gouldman came up some how 'cos his partner was in a car crash or something. I mean the songs lacked the aggression, they were supposed to be aggressive.

FTC: Do you think Pleasant Dreams is the worst album you have ever made?

JOEY: Well, I think the material was great but I thought the production should have been a lot heavier. Maybe one or two songs came out alright but say the album could be remixed y'know it could have been a great album.



LETS GO!

Well there you are folks, the end of The Ramones interview (the Joey Ramone interview anyhow). Not many bands whoseeadmission fee is £5.50 would be bothered to talk to the punters after the show and Joey could just have easily told us to fuck off or something so I suppose that's a slight slight consolation for such exorbitant door prices, but in no way is it an excuse!! I know some of the interview may be a bit unimportant in places but of all the stuff we had on tape, this was, to us anyway, the best we could decipher. We also had a few questions and answers with Richie (note how I've spelt his name wrong all over the plave) but due to being stupid bastards wiping out his words while trying to wind the tape back, all is now lost forever, aaaah. All in all, it's great to see men in their 30's (well 3 of them) still playing good energetic music when most at that age are running off to tax havens etc. If you didn't get a chance to see the band on their tour, you could do worse than to get the excellant 'Too Tough To Die' album.

TESTAMENT OF REALITY 10. 30p.

I don't know how long this 'zine has been out but it's good so it's worth a mention, in it are interviews with Toxic Reasons, Instigators, Evil Mothers (eh Trev?!), Phantoms Of The Underground, Stand 13, D&V plus about 4 million other bands and garantillions of other goodies so go get it! From...Ian, 11 Salutation Rd, Darlington, Co Durham. DL3 8JN.

CRASH COURSE 6 30p.

Bit of a change from the last CC I seen, not a lot on the layout, articles front etc but the bands this time are (to put it mildly) not my cup of tea at all. Cult, Xmal Deutchland, Press Gang etc, but the articles are by far the best, from, Graham, 32 Pendleton Green, Halewood, Liverpool.

VAGABCND.1. 30p.

I don't know how long this 'zine has been doing the rounds for either but it has a lot of really excellant reading in it. Chaotic layout which looks great but always looks awful when I try to do it, Chumbawamba, D&V, Toxic Shock lengthy probing interviews and tons of reviews plus good articles on N.I., Molesworth, Nigeria, Sexism etc and loads of other great stuff from..Steve, c/o '48', 48 Beetwell St, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

HAVE A GOOD LAUGH *10, 20p

HAGL finally reaches no10 which in itself is something of an achievement without the standard dropping either! It has interviews with Conflict, Distemper (not the usual safe fanzine dross as is an interview with) GBH, Exit Stance, Last Rough Cause and a few others. Plenty of critical comments on/to the bands with no lick-the-arse crawling so usual in 'zines and absolutely millions of reviews plus loads of cartoons (which I wasn't too fussed on) go to make this the most entertaining and educational 'zines around, the layout could've been better though. To...Trev, 57 Briardene, Burnopfield, N'Castle Upon Tyne NE16 6LJ. Don't nobble stamps though 'cos he's watched.

SKIDS

If there's one single thing which unites people from all classes, creeds, races and crosses all political boundaries, it is the 'skidus markimum del underibo panti' or in plain English, the skidmark.

All through history this single item has made it's mark (sic) on almost everybody. Such is the might of the skidmark that it has even been known to bring about the downfall of governments. One such government was that of Richard Nixon in America, although this downfall was heavily disguised with some petty disagreement like Watergate Tapes or something else, Follow The Crowd can now reveal the tr true story of what really happened. It seems that one day while residing in the Whitehouse, Mr Nixon, after taking a bath, left all his dirty clothes in a basket to be washed by the maid. The maid accidently found out Nixon's secret weakness and threatened to tell the world's press about it unless he abdicate from presidency and pay her a large sum of money. Thus the downfall of R. Nixon.

Another man to fall foul of the skidmark was none less than 'good old all American boy' himself, John Wayne. I am sure you all know that in America there is an airport in John's name, but do you know how this came about? It started one day when John, who was acutely embarrassed by his 'slip-ups', travelled a little out of town, took off the offending articles and through them into a field. Due to the amount of skids on John's under garment a passing airplane pilot thought they were an airport runway and so he landed on them. When the press got to hear about airplanes landing in the field for no apparent reason, they asked questions in high places why it was happening, and they, to keep up the good image that John had earned for America, had to pretend that an airport was planned all along and eventually save face for John and the nation at large. Why did Napolean always keep his hand inside his jacket? It was to hold up his long johns (nothing to Wayne) ' because old Nappy, as he was affectionately known, just had no control at all and was forever worried that a freak gust of wind would expose him to the gazing eyes of the press (in those days?)

Other famous people who suffered greatly from this social disease were, Emperor Nero - skidded while Rome burnt, Tommy Steele - skidded in the rain, and Bing Crosby who sang the skidders anthem, "I'm dreaming of a skiddy Christmas". This list is by no means complete as there are a lot of 'closet skids' still to be uncovered, indeed it is rumoured that a group of prominent Outer Mongolian lavatory cleaners are proposing that Feb 29th be made international 'wear your skid with pride' day. If the future of the world is to be defended we must wipe out this evil tide of skidmarks before the makers of that horrible, crinkly, sand paper like, toilet roll, who are in league with the skids, try to take over the world and dr drown us in an avalanche of skidmarks.

You can't save the world with a load of skidmarks in your underpants! Remember what your mother told you when you were young, "don't forget to change your underpants in case you get knocked down by a car and have to be taken to hospital!" And "what would become of the nation if you were captured by a Russian spy and sent to dig skids in Siberia!?!"

SELF DESTRUCT

Info sheets of bands are usually very boring histories of when their 92nd bass player joined, when their 39th gig was cancelled etc but this piece by Mark, I hope you'll agree, doesn't fall into any of the above catagories. Before we start let me say that I don't agree with everything stated but hope that you'll find it interesting. Anyway..... We formed just over two years ago and since then we've gone through 2 line-up changes to form what is probably our best line-up; Alan/drums, backing vocals, Blair/bass, Mark/Vocals, Parky/Guitar. We have no real influences but we all like The Ramones, Alan likes The Buzzcocks and The Dickies, Parky likes The Ruts and I (Mark) like Channel 3, Dickies and Penetration to name but a few.

Each of us has different views on politics etc so I can't really speak for the rest of the band. I don't believe anarchy could ever work and I don't believe it will ever happen, but I do believe in rebellion, direct action. We can change things if we work together. I am more interested in personal politics than governments, trade unions etc. I believe in freedom, freedom to express feelings as well as freedom of speech, but I don't know that it is possible to have freedom to do what you want because there will always be people pressurising and telling you what to do in any society. It's human nature, something which can only be changed over a long period of time, if at all.

I believe in the death penalty.(err, sure this ain't the Apostles article? -Doe) Very un-hip these days, but whoever wants to be hip?

I don't believe in nuclear disarmament, unilateral or multilateral because I don't think any country can be trusted, but I do think we need to stop the escalation of nuclear weapons. The whole nuclear thing should never have started in a humane society. I'll not say any more about it because you've heard all the arguements before.

I don't believe in taking drugs and I don't smoke or drink, these are just socially accepted drugs, a form of escapism, a way of escaping reality. You might as well go to a disco, it has the same effect! Something else I feel strongly about is the way man is destroying the world. Every day more and more nuclear waste is pumped into the sea or buried in the countryside, we're all going to pay the cost eventually. But there are some who suffer imediate harm, the animals who die because their environment is destroyed by man for man's benefit. We don' need nuclear power, there are alternatives which are harmless and cheaper. THINK! DESTROY TRADITION, CHANGE CONVENTION, DON'T ACCEPT THEIR LIES!

Well, that's that then, thanx to Mark for taking the bothe r to write and send this in. If you want to write to the band you can do so at.....

MARK, 120 CAUSEWAY STREET, PORTRUSH, CO ANTRIM. N.I. BT56 8JE

CHUMBAWAMBA

Chumbawamba are an 8 piece band from Leeds. Their music is quite difficult to describe but varies from slow acoustic songs to tunefull thrash. They have strong anarcho-pacifist views and are all vegans who are against all animal exploitation.

Under 'Sky And Trees' products they sell various demos, compilation tapes etc and two very interesting and informative booklets. 'The Right Not To Work' is a booklet which questions the need to work and how working maintains the privelige and wealth of government and businessmen who control our lives. The other booklet 'Dirty Fingers In Dirty Pies' (a consumer's guide to bastards) lists the companies involved in vivisection , explcitation, the arms trade and other equally distasteful activities. Anyway, now onto the interview which was kindly answered by Boffo.

◆ When did you form (aaarrgh), any line-up changes/current line-up and where did you get the name Chumbawamba from?
= Chumbawamba 'formed' about 4 years ago; we've changed a lot, grown in population and learnt a lot about ourselves. We exist as a group of people living and working together - the band is an arm of that group, an expression of what we feel as people. The changes-of themselves-(band history etc) are much the same as most 'band histories' , boring and dull reading and fairly pointless descriptive. Chumbawamba came from 'Chumbawailin' which came from busking in Paris.

◆ Are there many gigs around the Leeds area?
= Few that we go to. One regular 'punk venue', Bradford's 1 in 12 club is well run and based on a collective decision making basis.

◆ What's the audience reaction usuausually like? What's your best and worst gig?
= It's hard to tell, we seem to be well recieved at the gigs but the whole point of what we're doing is to have effact outside the 'gig' situation. The 'music scene' is built on the idea of escapism . a gig can be wonderful but it is pointless unless it inspires feeling that can be taken outside that area. Especially good for me personally are gigs /concerts which make me go away and question what I've always accepted. A recent gig in Nottingham was both best and worst!

◆ Are you all vegetarians and what are your views on religion/animal rights/sexism/racism/pacifism/anarchism?
= We're all vegans, The issues you mentioned are too complex to explain properly and we obviously don't have absolutely alike views; things we might differ from the ridiculously rigid punk 'norm' on are; (briefly) religion has nothing to do with ' 'God' or 'Christ', religion is an institution . Leaders become scapegoats! Anarchy is different things to different pe ople. All rules are changeable. Pacifism doesn't mean eating shit. Pacifism is using peace as a weapon for change. Animal liberation can't be achieved on it's own, it's just one part of a large jigsaw and everything is flexible.

◆ Do you think anarchy would work and if so who would doall the really mundane jobs like driving buses, working in sewers, delivering mail etc if you weren't paid to?
= Actually I have it on good authority that there's going to be anarchy next Wednesday and Dunst has offered to drive the buses. So that is sorted out, I can't wait.

◆ What are you're views on the ALF after the Mars Bars thing and the petrol bombs being thrown? Surely, that is not NVDA? Also what about the Hunt Retribution Squad, do you not think their action just alienated people who would otherwise support the cause?
= Don't let anyone tell you that the ALF is something other than yourself! The ALF is whatever you want it to be. To some people it's posing for photographs with chain saws. To me, it's whatever saves animal life without hurting human life. There are no spokesmen/ women for the ALF, speak for yourself. I don't accept centrally organised bearocratic groups who expound armchair anarchism on behalf of individuals who disagree with their actions and methods. Fuck 'em!

◆ What are your musical influences?
= Lots of things from Zappa to the Fall to Joni Mitchell to Buddy Holly oooops!

◆ Would you say you were a punk band and what do you think of the current 'punk' scene?
= Sometimes we are and sometimes we'd be ashamed to call ourselves 'punks'. But it can be positive and challenging and that's why we're still into 'punk'. The current punk scene is few and far between, I think most of it's dead dull but a few sparks make it a lively bastard.

◆ What do you think of OI?
= It's dead and gone and never became more than a fashion for sneers and getting pissed.

◆ Would you ever appear in Sounds or go on Top Of The Pops?
= I won't make promises about it because times and situations change. Sounds and TOTP typify the shit we are trying to get rid of. I'd like to smash Sounds windows, that would be good. I'd like to write or say something in Sounds if no censorship could be guaranteed but it never is. We'll see. Both Sounds & TOTP are very powerful so that to be able to effectively use them would be worthwhile.

◆ Any chance of a vinyl release?
= An LP soon. (Brilliant answer - Doe)

◆ What do you think of people who go animal rights demos, direct action etc who wear the punk uniform of leather jacket and Doc boots?
= I think it's good that they have thought enough to act. In that situation it's good that they have the space to think about what they're doing etc. People change in their own time.

◆ What do you think of Crass, any criticisms of them?
= No criticism of Crass, they are very inspiring and that's all I can ask for.

◆ What are you're views on the music business, both major and independant companies? What do you think of The Poison Girls doing a video and Vi appearing on Whistle Test in an interview?
= The music 'business' is shit and it's everywhere, it's at punk gigs disguised as rock n roll tradition. Most independant record companies exist on the premise of imitating major record companies but not all. Poison Girls doing a video is up to them (I didn't see it), remember they're reaching a different audience by involving themselves in OGWT etc, everyone's too eager to find fault with each other. Interviews, especially spoken interviews are valuable and interesting.

◆ Would you ever go on TV eg the Tube
= Yes we would on our own terms. The Tube is shit.

◆ Anything else you wish to add?
= Yes, it's about time we all came out of our shells and started to communicate across the traditional barriers we set up. Anarchy has to be a catalyst for action, not a set of defined regulations, anarchy works for everyone but in different ways. Anarchy is in a small black box, it sits and has meatings or it appears scrawled on backs and b anners at gigs, either way, it stays safe and tame. Let's make it a threat! Go out tonight and dismantle the system! Don't get arrested.....

This Chumbawamba interview was done by Kenny of 4 Wedderburn Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife Scotland KY2 6UY, he also asked me to plug his 'zine(but it fell down the sink -geddit?) it is called GOTCHA and costs the very low sum of 5p. He also asked me to mention a band called TALKING TRUST who've got a 6 track demo available from Davy, 7 Homestom Ave, Bothwell, Lanarkshire, Scotland for 80p & SAE. For r eally cheap T shirts write to, Jonny, 81 Watling Street, Uddingston, Glasgow.

THE ENDYPOOS

...The Black Horse Of Famine Rides Again...

Onslaught

My partner in crime, Moyni, recieved a tape of Onslaught from Mo of the band and he then passed it on to me. I heard that the band described themselves as punk/metal, so I approached the tape with some reluctance as I thought that here would be another weak effort at sounding like Discharge, but no, I was pleasantly suprised when I listened to the tape, and considering that none of the songs were studio recorded the power and anger of Onslaught come accross very clear. The only low point on the tape to me was that the vocals didn't come out too well, but the musicianship more than makes up for it. Great to hear a band that can play a decent lead solo than some who seem to find extreme difficulty in holding down a bar chord! I'll not go into such bore you to death details like line-up changes etc so the band at the moment (MOment ?) consist of Nice/lead, Steve/drums, Jase/(what else but) bass, Mo/vocals.

Anyway we will have less of my dribbling and get on with the questions that I sent to the band with the help of our great and glorious (?) post office, the show must go on yyyyyeeeeeeeaaaaaaaarrrrggggggghh! Please?.....

FTC. For a band that haven't been going too long, how did you manage to get so many gigs with 'name' bands? What did they think of you?

ONSLAUGHT. We've been very lucky on that score. Bristol's main punk promoter (who isn't a businessman, he's a punk) saw us when we played a gig in Bristol that was organised by the band, he liked us alot so of course, with him putting on known bands nearly every week, he offers to let us play as well. As for any of these bands liking us, we don't always get a chance to chat to all of them. The Varukers liked us and hopefully, sometime, we might be able to do some gigs with them. The Exploited liked us as well. I really don't know what the other bands thought of us.

FTC. Your lyrics wouldn't exactly be the kind of words you'd sing to your sick granny to cheer her up, do you not have any less depressing lyrics?

ONSLAUGHT. Considering our lyrics are about war, famine etc, I can't really see anything cheerful about these subjects but perhaps that's not what you meant. If you mean why don't we sing about something more cheerful, I don't write the lyrics so I can't really say. With the lyrics we've got though, I can put a lot of hatred and force behind them when I'm singing because I feel strongly about the subjects. I hope that answers your question.

FTC. There's no escaping the fact that you'll be classed in the shadow of Discharge, how do you feel about this?

ONSLAUGHT. Yes, the early stuff, some of which we still play, is very much like Discharge as I keep getting told. Our newer stuff is very much heavier though and hopefully it'll help us stop being compared to Discharge. I personally don't mind the comparison coz I really like them (D), they had a very powerful sound and a very good guitarist which means we can not be all that bad. I think our lyrics are better though. I don't know what the rest of the group feel about these comparisons.

FTC. Apart from Pax and Foxhole, have any other companies shown any interest in Onslaught? What exactly does the Pax deal involve?

ONSLAUGHT. No, can't say any other labels have shown an interest in us, but considering we haven't played outside of Bristol yet, have been lucky to of had the services of both Pax and Foxhole. The Pax deal wasn't really a deal. Pax had heard a tape of us , got in touch, paid for us to record two songs. There was never any mention of money and we certainly never expected any. We were supposed to follow the "Daffodils" tracks with an EP on Pax, but Marcus Featherby has dissappeared so this looks uncertain now. We could have a one off deal with Foxhole Records coming up though.

FTC. I know that Mo does a fanzine, do you think that this has helped the band in any way getting gigs etc?

ONSLAUGHT. Yes, I used to do a 'zine called "Nervous Wreck", I've had to stop doing it now though. I do not know if I helped get the band gigs, but I most certainly got their name about. I did their 1st full interview in issue 2 of my 'zine, and I tried to give them a mention in every issue after that. This was all before I became singer for them by the way.

FTC. Do you think the band can work better under pressure like having to get something done in a specified time?

ONSLAUGHT. As a band I don't think we've actually worked under a lot of pressure, certainly not since I joined anyway. I think we could work quite well under pressure though.

FTC. You say you have no qualms about being part of the punk/metal crossover, do you not think that this is just another label within punk which in the long run will only split people up more and more?

ONSLAUGHT. No. Punk/metal is not a label, it's a description of our music, if people want to call it a label, that's up to them.

FTC. I've read that Bristol audiences don't exactly strain themselfs to dance (?) at gigs, can you see any special reason for this?

ONSLAUGHT. It would be too easy to say 'apathy', but I suppose thats what it is. I think it's also because we've got gigs down here nearly every week and people have now got a choice of who they want to see etc. When the gigs first started, there was big crowds and lots of people dancing, but that kind of thing is getting rarer.

what lies ahead..?

onslaught

FTC. A lot of bands nowadays release records very early in their career which they later regret, do you feel that it is best for the band/record buyers if the band matures a bit before releasing anything? Do you think Onslaught are mature enough yet?

ONSLAUGHT. Yes, of course it's better for a band to mature before having any vinyl release. I think that's why the sale of punk records have dropped so much 'cos theres been a lot of shit coming out over the past years (and 'cos the records are so sodding dear). We think that we have matured enough to release a record, our downfall is being able to get the production we want. If/when we do a recording for a single, we're getting in this bloke who knows what he's doing.

FTC. What would be the stumbling block for Onslaught, I mean like, you're bound to disaggree on some points that could lead to a split later on?

ONSLAUGHT. Good question and to be honest, I really don't know. The only kind of arguements we have is usually to do with "what fuckin speed are we playing this song". We've got some slow songs which are very easy to speed up and there's always somebody that plays too fast. Our political views differ but seeing as we don't introduce politics into our songs that doesn't really matter.

FTC. Anything else you'd like to say?

ONSLAUGHT. Yeah, thanx to Doe for the really good questions and for having us in his 'zine. Anyone wanting a tape of us, it costs £1 + SAE from, Onslaught, 10 Lakleaze Road, Longwell Green, Bristol. Anybody wanting to buy/swop bootleg tapes, I've got a list (100+) so send me your lists SAE to Mo, 7 Cranberry Walk, Coombe, Dingle, Bristol, BS9 2RB. Don't soap stamps 'cos the PO have caught on.

Well, that's the end of the interview then, thanx to Mo for the answers & artwork etc. Since this interview was done I have heard that Onslaught have released an LP on C.O.R. Records but as I haven't heard it yet I can't comment on it, but if it's as powerful as their first tape which nearly melted my tape recorder (slight exaggeration) then it would be worth getting.
This be the end.....
.....
.....or is it?

OFFICIAL TAPE:WHAT LIES AHEAD..?
DEATH OOI:PUNK/METAL MANIA.
£1.00+SAE:ONSLAUGHT:10,LAKLEAZE RD
LONGWELL GREEN,BRISTOL,ENGLAND.

onslaught

AMEBIX/EVIL MOTHERS/GENERIC. THE STATION NEWCASTLE, 2nd AUGUST 1985.

First on were the rather fabby thrash outfit Generic who consist of Wizz (R. Humanity) on vocals, Sned-drums and Micky-guitar (both ex Blood Robots. They played yet another tuneful set and with such weak competition, being best band of the night was a walkover. Don't suppose any of you over in Ireland will have heard of The Evil Mothers (this 'zine goes to more places than Ireland matey boy! -Doe), well it's not suprising 'cos if talent is anything to go by, they wouldn't get out of their native Sunderland! They tried to be a glam/punk band but failed, well at least being a good one - no tunes, no power, no good. Amebix actually turned up this time (3rd time lucky) and no longer do they sound like a second rate Killing Joke, they now sound like a second rate Black Metal band. Everyone I talked to thought they were brilliant but I spent half of their set getting some scran (?) from the Chinese's - talls you how good I thought they were. Dunno if it was being told that one (or more) of them is on heroine, but there was something really depressing about them.
Oh yeah, I almost forgot, Sons Of Vengeance also played, on second thoughts- they're best forgotten!

Review by Trev of HAGL.

(Glad you had such a good night out,ha ha -Doe)

Welcome To The Pleasure Dome" COMP TAPE

FROM 57 BRIARDENE, BURNOPFIELD, N'CASTLE UPON TYNE

The third release on HAGL tapes and to me it is by far the most inferior. Apart from two tracks from the great Uproar demo reviewed elsewhere in this 'zine, a very Clash-like 'Killing Me Asylum' by External Menace, 'Reason Why' by New Blood (great vocals) and the mental bass playing and singing in tracks by Heimat-Los there's not a lot else on this tape to impress me, in fact most songs vary from "heard it all before" to "nothing special" and as it stands, most of it is only decent (and honest I suppose) background music.
Defenitely not the greatest compilatio compilation I've ever heard, I was especially looking forward to hearing the Shrapnel track 'cos I heard they were brilliant but their song on this must have been recorded years ago because it just isn't the greatest to say the least.
Bad, but not the worst I've heard and I suppose for £1+SAE or blank tape+ SAE you can't go wrong 'cos if it's not to your liking then you can tape over it. Better to get the 2nd HAGL compilation 'Wot No Noise?' though as it is far far better and is worth getting for the extremely powerful and tuneful tracks by Slime alone.
For £1 you can't go far wrong but when HAGL tapes trademark is quality music, what went wrong here?

C.O.R. RECORDS

Because most fanzines don't really excite me as they are uaually full of pretty boring questions to bands that don't excite me either, I wrote to Tim the bloke who runs Children Of The Revolution Records asking him to write me a piece on the setting up of the label so maybe somebody could take an intrest and set up their own label. And this is what he wrote.....

I started the label with about £2000, you need £1000 to get on the Enterprise Allowence Scheme, they don't hassle you at all and you get £40 a week for a year which helps a lot. It really wouldn't have been possible to do it without the help I got from Revolver Records Distribution (Bristol's Rough Trade), they gave me loads of advice and help and paid for the pressings in return of an extra cut of a few pence more per record than what they usually take.
The main problem has been doing singles, they're OK to do if you do it all yourself including distribution, but if you sell them through the shops then you are likely to lose money, especially if you spent cash on recording. I've lost hundreds of pounds on doing singles, I don't give a fuck about the money myself but I am too poor really, never been able to have a record player myself. (one two three aaaahhhhh - Doe)
It's too complicated to explain everything here but basically I would warn off anyone who wanted to start a label on their own unless you really know what you're doing. The state of record sales is too bad, it's quite simple for a band to release their own record, the main problem is getting it well publicised. Bear in mind that in the hardcore scene half the records are sold overseas, so you have to be in touch with people in the USA and Europe to get it well known. The Cartel and Rough Trade exporters etc will do a lot of work for you, but it still helps to be in touch with non-profit distributors especially in Europe where shops are a real rip-off.
Basically I'm mad doing C.O.R., I'll probably never make back the money I put in, let alone make a profit unless the hardcore market suddenly explodes - but who cares, I've met some great people, enjoyed myself and put out some great music - that's better than money anyday!

CONTACT: BOX 333 FULL MARKS BOOKSHOP
110 CHELTENHAM ROAD BRISTOL

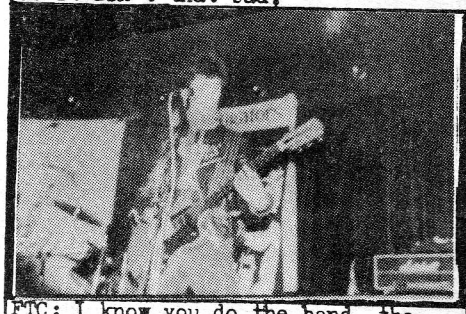
XPOZEZ

Anyone who reads fanzines on any sort of regular basis, will no doubt have heard of The Xpozez. They (at the time of typing) have just released 2 EPs which are a refreshment from most of the stuff that's about these days, decent tunes, decent production and even a singer who can sing! At times it seems that the re must be two bands with the same name Xpozez due to them popping up more times than a 'naughty' stamp but even though Tez, who answered these questions, is busy in what must be the biggest non-profit making distribution service for 'zines/tapes/records etc that I've yet come across, and also does a 'zine called 'Huddersfield Sucks', it just makes me think when I write to bands who don't reply 'cos they say that they're busy, if someone can do a distribution service, a fanzine, run a band, and give more than a two word answer to an interview question then why the hell can some 'popstars' not even return an SAE? Here's Tez's adress if you want to get in touch (and I don't see why you shouldn't!).....

TEZ, 12 BELL STREET, NEWSOME, HUDDERSFIELD, W.YORKS HD4 6NN.

FTC: You have a lot of songs on compilation tapes etc and you do a lot of Xpozez live/practice tapes for people, have any of the record companies you've ever worked for ever tried to stop you from doing this as in the ir eyes it would be 'commercial suicide'?
TEZ: We've never had any problems from either of the companies we had singles out on, Red Rhino were'nt bothered about us selling tapes or being on compilations, as far as I'm concerned, I couldn't give a shit if it annoyed Illuminated or not, in fact I hope it got right up their noses.

FTC: Are you embarrassed by any of your old songs, like wishing you'd never done them?
TEZ: Listening to old live tapes usually makes me cringe a little while hearing some old songs we do not play any more, but these are so very old and hardly any one has heard them or is either likely to so it isn't that bad.



FTC: I know you do the band, the distribution service and the fanzine do you honestly ever get cheesed off doing all this and think of packing it all in, settling down and getting married?
TEZ: All the time. I have phases of disallusionment with all the things I'm involved in but we always manage to suppress it in favour of carrying on. They all have their highs and their lows and at the moment I am feeling pretty good so things are getting done i.e. this interview getting done.

FTC: How did the Protest '84 festival go in Belgium that you played at, and do you think that there's more communication between folk over there in Europe than there is in Britain?
TEZ: The festival went pretty well, we enjoyed playing in Antwerp and being in the city itself. There were quite a few bands playing such as Zyclome A who have a great album out. Because we're isolated here in the UK with the sea between us and our neighbours (including Ireland) people use that as an excuse for not travelling. People in Europe can travel easier between countries so communication is obviously better over there.

FTC: Would the band do an interview with the established music press, keeping in mind their fondness of misquoting folk, and does people writing to you with praise etc and dancing/cheering at gigs etc, honestly give you a big ego trip?
TEZ: I honestly don't know whether we'd do an interview with the music press. It would have to be a group decision, after we'd weighed up the pros and cons, so if you ever see us in Snouds or the MNE you'll know it was after much debating among ourselves. As for people writing with praise and dancing etc, it isn' so much an ego trip, part of our job is to entertain people and to put a message across, if people relate to this then that's bound to please us. As for letters of praise, it's hard to seperate the honest ones from the crawly ones who just want to butter you up to get something free.

FTC: What about this 'No Apologies Ever graphic with the burning police car, do you honestly think that there will come a time when a p

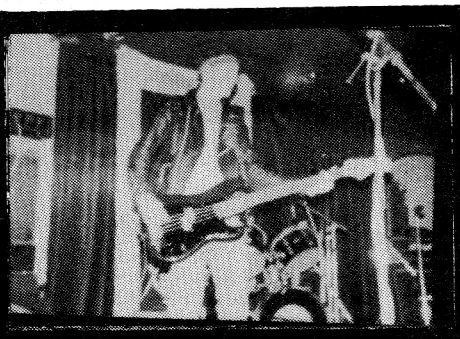
police force will not be needed or can you see a time when the police will gain favour with the people?
TEZ: I doubt that in my lifetime or yours that we'll ever see a need to abolish the police force, I doubt we ever will unless through some sort

Xpozez recieve a threatening letter from the killer daisies lurking in the background.

of genetic engineering we could clone a decent force to uphold people's laws (to state law and order would mean touching on another debatable subject).

FTC: Staying on the subject of cop cars, you must think that some violent and destructive action is excusable or necessary so is it not hypocritical to preach peace and then act violently?
TEZ: My views differ slightly from yours I think on this matter, I do not necessarily find the destruction of material possessions such as police vehicles as an act of violence I abhor any form of physical attack on a living creature, that to me is mindless violence but to destroy something material and treasured in this world of things, to express your views or to possibly help gain recognition through the media (using the enemy to your own advantage) I feel is justified as long as you can be sure that no living form will be damaged by this action.

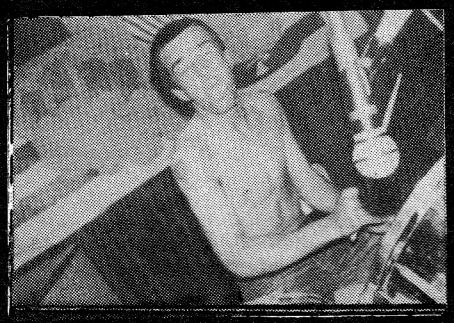
FTC: You must be in contact with quite a few bands, do you or they ever really try to get gigs in Ireland?
TEZ: We're trying to get gigs in both northern and southern Ireland but as we've learned from past experiences it's much easier for someone on the ball (Jimmy Hill perhaps? ha ha-Doe) in that particular area who is in a much better position to arrange



organise gigs. So if anyone is interested in arranging anything for us over there then please get in touch.

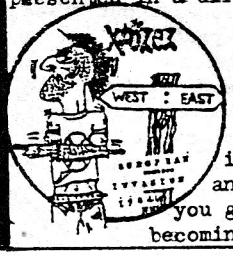
FTC: What about your song 'Democrazy' having the same riff as 'Class War' by The Exploited?
TEZ: No one had ever mentioned this before you did so I played it and there is a slight resemblance. Not being at all interested in The Exploited, I can't see us as being at fault and ripping them off. If we had then it wouldn't bother me as they've ripped off enough tunes in the ir time.

FTC: A lot of independant record companies and distributers have been going bust lately, will this affect The Xpozez in any way, and how do you think it will affect punk in general?
TEZ: No, I don't think it will affect The Xpozez really and I doubt if it will affect punk as much as sales of punk records etc has been very low recently. Most records are handled



by The Cartel which is pretty solid I should think. If The Cartel collapsed then so would the independant network.

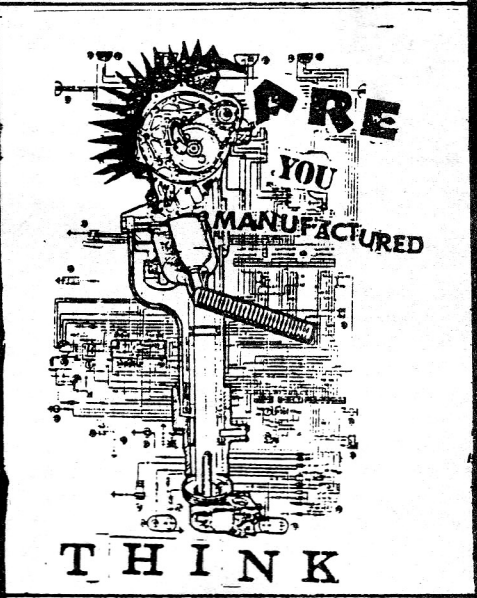
FTC: Not all your s ongs are of a direct political nature, is this a conscious decision to avoid political issues?
TEZ: Not so much to avoid political issues. We have direct attacks on different issues but w e tend to stay clear of widely covered issues as there are other things we feel equally important. Also if you dig deep into songs like 'Deformation Dancing' you'll find serious issues presented in a different way.



FTC: The Xpozez have been going for a good few years now, what do you think you have achieved in that time and for how long can you go on without it becoming just another job?

TEZ: It's managed to keep us of the pile, we've a message, we've a goal and when we've achieved that, it'll be time to stop because we don't take ourselves as people seriously. We enjoy what we are d oing, when it becomes boring we will stop.

FTC: What is the face with the gun pointed at it supposed to mean?
TEZ: To be quite honest, I don't really know, it was drawn by Chris who puts out 'Ods Un Sods 'zine and as he'd taken the trouble to draw it



and send it we decided to include it on the cover, perhaps if you buy a copy of Ods Un Sods to find out his address the n you can ask him. (Pretty nifty capitalistic trick eh readers?)

FTC: Who done The Xpozez booklet thingy, was it done to put down once and for all the history of the band to avoid the hideous 'when did you form' question?
TEZ: It was done by a friend of ours not so much to side step the most boring question ever asked (and re-asked) by lobotomised fanzine editors but to make an info sheet that wasn't the usual dirge we had the repeated displeasure of recieving from all over the place, hopefully, it' will prove interesting reading.

FTC:(Scraping the bottom of the barrel here) What question would you most like to be asked, what is the question and what is the answer? (well, what about that then? I bet all other 'zine put togetherers wish they had have thought that one up boo boo hisssssss!)
TEZ: It's a definitive toss up between 'when did the band form' and what are

the band members favourite groups', both of these questions are among my favourites (surely you jest?-Doe) we've become experts at answering these differently each time. Because you're finding it hard it gives me a fine excuse to slump and pretend there isn't a question I'd like to be asked.

FTC:Finally, Why were the latest 2 EPs released at nearly the same time do you not think that this puts a strain on the record buyers? What kind of deal do you have with C.O.R. records?
TEZ: The Eps weren't meant to come out at the same time, 'lit Up - Burntout' should have precede 'Truth Drug' by a few months but money problems caused a long delayand they ended up coming out at the same time, it could back fire but I think both will promote the other and help sales. We have no written arrangement with C.O.R. but we feel they're doing more for us than any of the previous companies we've dealt with in the past and we feel they echo our sentiments and feel as strongly about keeping prices of the records to a minimum as we do. I hope we can continue to work with them in t he future.

That seems as good a place as any to end this feature and besides, there are no more answers or questions so my friends the end is nigh, repent you evil sinners and while you're at it why not send away for one of The Xpozez FPs, I can guarantee that you won't be dissapointed arf arf arf.

Since this Xpozez interview was done, I've heard that the band have split up and that Tez, the singer, has joined those other purveyors of fine music, The Instigators. You may ask why I've used the interview when I knew they weren't going anymore but this interview along with some other pieces in the 'zine are still relevant to me and no doubt relevant to others, that is one of the reasons, another is that if I had pulled out these two pages then the wait to get replacement pages would probably have resulted in some other stuff going out of date and thus repeating the whole process with the vicious circle turning on and on so there! Boo shucks!

I've got a wee piece of room left here so I'll fill it up with a few things which might intrest people (is this man serious? haha) Here's a few 'zines that I couldnt get mentioning anywere else, they are all worth getting so.....

"ANXIOUS" 15p from...Julia, 53 Portallo Street Belfast.
YOUTH ANTHEM" 40p from...Martin, 45 Ballykeel Road, Moneyreagh, Newtownards, Co Down. BT23 6RN.
"PHOENIX FROM THE CRYPT" 20p from, Middie, 24 Duncansby Drive, Bromborough, Wirral, Merseyside, L63 ONY. DON'T FORGET SAE/SAE/S

The unemployed youth of
England, Scotland and Wales are still being
signed up to kill and be killed by the un-
employed youth of Northern Ireland
stalag
17
PETESY - VOCALS JOE - BASS
MICKEY - DRUMS GASKY - GUITAR

Stalag 17

Stalag 17 are a four piece band from that great festering sore on the face of the earth known as Belfast. To be perfectly honest, the first time I saw the band, I wasn't too impressed at all but after seeing them a lot of times since that first encounter, I feel that they have improved a great deal and are now a very tight band indeed. They have just had a track 'Society's Fairytale' included on the 'We Don't Want Your Fucking War' compilation LP which to me anyway, rates as one of the best songs on it. They also have a joint 12" single coming out soon (should be out long ago knowing how long it takes this rag to come out) with another Belfast band Toxic Waste, which should get both bands some well deserved regognition. I got a demo tape of a few of their songs and it must be the closest comparison of studio sound to live sound I've ever heard before with a band. Well, I'll get on with the interview then, the questions were answered by the singer, Petesy and all artwork etc was taken from their lyric sheets, so tally ho, on we go!!!

FTC: You've been playing for a good few years now, has the reason for the band changed any in that time, has the whole Belfast 'punk scene' changed any? Better or worse?
PETESY: Apart from the change in line-up, tha band's attitudes have completely changed. We are still singing about the same things that we've always sang about the difference being that we are trying to communicate more through lyric sheets, handouts, films etc. Too many bands are falling into the rut where they think that they're going to change things by getting up on a stage and mouthing words that no one can understand. As for the Belfast punk scene, it's slowly but surely drifting away from 'the scene' side of things and becoming something worthwhile.

FTC: How did the FightBack association come about, what kind of deal have you with them, is it just for the comp LP and the joint 12" with Toxic Waste or does it go further than that?
PETESY: At the moment we are not really sure what is happening about the joint 12" on Mortarhate (where did I get FightBack out of?-Doe). We have recorded the tracks and Toxic Waste are waiting on money from Conflict to finish their recording , and that's were the problem arises, there seems to be some hitch from Mortarhate about parting with the money, and we honestly can't tell why! The tracks on the LP came about when Conflict played here, they offered us, Toxic Waste and Wardance a track each and then blah, blah, blah....

FTC: Was it your first visit to the studio when you done the recording for the Compilation, how long did it take you to record and did you pick up the tab (not the sugar free Cola!) or did the record label and are you pleased with the outcome? Was the 12" tracks recorded at a different time, I think the overall sound of them is better, what do you think?

PETESY: This was our first visit to the studio, and it took us about 2½ hours to record and produce Society's Fairytale and Doomsday Machine. We were pretty pleased with the sound we got seeing it was our first time in the studio. Of course it could have been a lot better, but I don't think any band are ever complately happy with what they record 'cos when you bring it home and listen to it you think of things that could have been put in for a better sound. The 12" tracks are a lot more powerful because we spent more time on production and had a lot more time on our hands as the comp LP recording was a rush job. We picked up the 'sugar free coke' on the first recording, but as for the 12" recording?! mmMMM!

FTC: The fact that the comp LP and the joint 12" are on a label associated with Conflict will no doubt help them sell a lot more than if they had've came out on a lesser known label, a case of blind acceptance?
PETESY: I suppose that fact will help the record sell better. Blind acceptance is something we're trying to fight against. I suppose a lot of people who do buy the record will just accept what we're saying because of th the association with M'hate, but the only way of combating this is not to get yourself associated with such a label, but then is that not defeating your own purpose? Surely the point is to get your message across to as many people as possible without letting yourself be ripped off by some businessman, and this seems at the moment, to be the best way of doing it.

FTC: Does it ever worry you that at gigs your message falls on deaf ears due to most of the gigs having dodgy PA systems, and what would you say to people who say they only want to be entertained with good music at gigs and not be subjected to the world's problems?
PETESY: We understand that our message is not getting across, not only because of dodgy PA systems, but because a lot of our songs are fast with the result that people can't keep up with what we're saying. That's why we've got the lyric sheets done to hand out at our gigs. So maybe people will ques tion, or at least relate to, what we're saying. I think most people who come to our gigs know the stance we take on politics, if these people don't want to be 'subjected to the world'd problems' they don't have to listen to what we are saying, but we think it's very selfish for a person to block what is happening around them and opt for entertainment when there's so much they could be doing to help out. Or I could be a real bastard and say if yo you don't want to hear the world's problems them fuck off! (But I won't)

FTC: Is the band the only way you express your views, do you produce handouts etc or take part in any sort of direct action?
PETESY: From time to time we produce handouts. Although this is a good way of getting our message across, we don't think it's enough. A handout can't express fully what a person feels so we'd rather communicate directly to people. As for direct action, the way we live and the fact that we stand up against authority could be seen by some as direct action, but if you're talking about actually going out and 'constructively'

damaging and defacing property that we find offensive and oppressive, well, let's say some of us do!

FTC: Do you not think that religion is being used as a scapegoat for the 'troubles' in NI and that most religious people completely abhor all the voilence that church leaders want to associate with different 'brands' of God?
PETESY: Religion is a really easy flash point were the trouble s are concerned. People will be prepared to kill and maim for 'their God' and 'their beliefs'. Any one who choses to follow a religion can't see past the barriers erected by their church leaders and it gets to the stage where someone tries to break these barr barriers with the result that the church leaders get worried because people living without religion isn't profitable. Being so respected by their flock it's easy for them to inflame people's hatred towards the other religion, so that any chance of a compromise between the two sides becomes impossible and the vicious circle continues. The organistaions that arise from these situations are just an extension of peoples inner fears and no one can say they haven't got the support of the people, if they didn't they would not exist. Most pe ople do condemn the violence perpetrated by these organisations but their fears and suspicions prevent them from putting an end to it!

FTC: I was trying to sell a bloke a copy of FTC at one of your gigs and he said that he wouldn't buy it becaus because (in his words) "all punk is now is fists in the air and trendy slogans with no real determanation to change anything, look at them jumping about shouting Smash The Front when not one of them was at the anti NF demonstration in Coleraine - that's punk for ya." Has punk became just trendy slogans with no real threat to anything ? Or even, who's to say that it should pose a threat to anything?
PETESY: Firstly, if a person's commitment is measured by how many demos they go to then there is something seriously wrong with those who judge that person in such a way. We weren't at the anti-NF demonstration in Coleraine so does that mean that we're not as much against the NF as those who were there? I can see people's point when they see punk as all fists in the air and slogans, but we're not going to change that by alienating ourselves from the people who aren't trying to change anything. Punk started off as a movement to change the whole structure of society by starting from the bottom up. Firstly the manufactured music business was shown to be a farce. Then people were shown how their every day lives were being run by other people (and not only government). Not everyone seen punk as this and chose to follow (the crowd?Doe) the fashion and conformed with society's values, but there were always a few who kept on trying to change people's attitudes and at last over 8 years on, some people are starting to listen. Of course there are t hose who will follow the anarchist fashion and they are the ones we're trying to get across to, not by telling them to fuck off or looking down on them but by making them realise they've got a mind of their own.

FTC: Do you feel that a lot of people in NI wallow in self pity because of the 'troubles' here and because of this, accept the patronising attitude of many of the politicians instead of looking for peace and freedom from within themselves?
PETESY: Exactly. People are prepared to shout about what is going on without offering an alternative. NI is no special case when it comes to people being oppressed, it's happening all over the world for fuck sake. We don't ignore what's happening in NI but we don't give it priority over other people's problems just because we live here. It's only when we let people from othe r countries know we care about them that we can gain world wide solidarity. It's such a big world we can't just restict ourselves to ridding it one part of it of all the shit. Politicians are the same all over the world, we have to make everyone realise this. Northern Ireland is just an example of the politicians losing a grip on the people.

FTC: Is it not a contradiction for bandswith anarchist views like yourselves to play in the Labour Party club in Belfast? Have Stalag 17 anything to do with the setting up of the new Belfast Anarchy Centre which I hear is in the pipeline? (Must be very small if it's going to be in a pipe!!)
PETESY: Firstly, the NI Labour Party doesn't exist any more. The Labour Club is run by a few people who are about as concerned with the Labour Party as we are. Not all the band hold anarchist beliefs, just the belief that people should be free to live their own lives. We are involved along with a lot of other people in setting up a centre in Belfast, not just for music, but anything that people wish to contribute. It is going to take a lot of hard work and the people involved will have to take a lot of shit, but if anyone is genuinely interested in what we're doing then surely it's worth the hassle.

FTC: Would playing outside Ireland pose any hassles for the band members w ho work, do you think it's important to have a job to keep a band going?
PETESY: We hope to be playing outside NI soon, the problem is money. It takes a lot of money for transport etc which we don't have at the moment. Their is hassle about work for some of the band members, I'm OK because I don't want to work but the rest of t he band do and if they can't take time off, there's fuck all I can do about it, though most of the time they would take the time off. Having a job is not important to keep a band going, the only thing you really need is commitment.

FTC: A lot of bands these days slag the CND movement, what's your views on CND's activities, is it really worth slagging them when there's more 'worthy' targets?
PETESY: CND is a carefully run organisation with leaders who 'sell' nuclear disarmament. This is were we disagree. We are trying to tell people not to follow leaders while CND are telling people to follow leaders. They don't seem to realise that nuclear weapons will exist as long as governments exist. I wonder has CND learnt any lesson from the way the miners were treated when they stood up to Thatcher. All CND are doing is leading it's followers down the path to nuclear destruction while they get rich.

FTC: About your song 'Smash The Front', are the NF any way strong in Belfast, have you ever came into direct confrontation with them?
PETESY: We've had a few confrontations with the NF skinheads over here, but none have been violent. The first was in the'Pound' in B'fast a few years back. We started to play Smash The Front and some skins took to the floor displaying the usual fists and nazi salutes but sat down again after the song, in fact a few came over later and said it would be a great song if we changed t he words. The second was in Larne with local skinheads who really didn't know what we were an about until one of the hard men came out and told them to stop dancing and give us the good old salute. Again there was no trouble and the y were dancing to the next song we done. They never really cared what we were saying it was just the same old story of them being intimidated into doing something they didn't want to do by bullyboys

INTERVIEW CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

UPROAR

DEMO TAPE

This demo tape is a real joy to listen to for the vocals alone, whereas a lot (most) of bands today don't use vocals to their best advantage, Uproar have obviously got their act together and use the lead vocals and backing vocals as another instrument to produce an overall sound which is uncommon among groups these days, maybe other bands could take note of well thought out singing instead of roaring like wounded buffaloes half the time! Anyway, the first track is called 'The One And Only' and has a great riff to it though the lyrics tend to get a bit cliched with lines like "born to lose but I'm gonna win" etc, it's an excellant song with a great singalongable chorus which should have you jumping about the room singing into a toilet roll tube until the men in the white coats come to take you away. If they haven't taken you away though, the second song 'Til Victory' will no doubt have you jumping about again, yet another good riff and vocals and wee guitar licks join up to produce a great song which is a bit too long for my liking, maybe if it was shorter....this is also what lets the next song down in my view, 'Don't Need It', an anti-NF and probably anti all violence song. This track starts off with a a deadly bass riff and the whole song threatens to go out of tune in places but holds on and has a very good lead solo which coupled with a great drums and vocals bit in the middle make it another goody goody yum yum.'You Ready Now' then follows but I'm not too fussed on it, there's a great stereo effect on it though with the vocals at the start and middle alternating from speaker to speaker - very rare to get a good stereo effect these days on a demo tape so more please!!! The last track, 'Time Is Coming' has good drumming at the start but I think it is the weakest on the tape though it does have excellant backing vocals and plenty of oow oow oows (?) to bring out the old toilet roll tube again, but alas& this song is cut short on my tape for some reason. Definitely a tape to get your greedy little ears on to so send a blank tape and SAE to STU, 78 FULWELL ROAD, PETERLEE, CO DURHAM and I'll assure you that if it's good songs and good singing you want then that's what you'll get! Must go now 'cos there's two blokes at my door with a funny looking long sleeved jacket with lots of ropes on it, byeeeeeaaaaaarrrrrrggh!

Well folks that's the end of another issue of FTC, thanx again to all the people who took an intrest, sorry to anyone who I missed or those whose name I spelt wrong etc. Keep an eye out for my next venture (if it comes about) of releasing flexis. If anyone knows were I could get flexis done up cheap and good quality then please get in touch. Again I must say it, but if anyone thinks they could manage to sell a few copies of this in their town, at gigs, on the moon or in toilet roll factories then GET IN TOUCH!

STALAG 17

FTC: Are Stalag 17 anything to do with Warzone Promotions? What advice would you give to a band who want to play over here?

PETESY: Warzone Promotions is a group of people, not necessarily bands, who are interested in underming the rip-off merchants who bring bands over for their own gain. What we do is arrange gigs, gear and somewhere to stay for the bands which keeps costs down to a minimum. The bands then collect all the money which will hopefully cover their costs. We can be contacted through, Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast. BT1 1JQ.

FTC: Finally, the most original question ever - anything else you want to say?

PETESY: Just to tell bands and people to wise up and stop competing against each other, we are getting nowhere by trying to out do each other, it's just another nail in our coffin. Don't judge a person by his/her ability or lack of it. We are slowly but surely creating our own rotting system, you can't have competition and peace so make the choice now. STALAG 17

ANARCHY+DIGNITY+PEACE

Well thanx to Petesy for answering the questions in such a lengthy and good way. If you want to get in touch with the band then contact them c/o the Just Books address...

I don't know what kind of title to put on this bit, so I suppose LØL REPORT will do nicely blah, blah..

LØL REPØRT

This is sort of scene report except that it's about me. There's not a lot to say about Pompey 'cos it's well fuckin' boring! No gigs (well those that are about rarely tend to be shit), the last good group to play down here was The Subhumans in September 84 and it's now April 85 (when I'm writing). As far as I know there's no 'zine distributers or anything like that and no 'zines. Only two decent groups, Ad Nauseum and (it's a secret but I'll tell ya if you write to me). Neither of them are hippy, in fact, there's only about 12 hippies that I know of from about 300 punx. So as you can see it's pretty boring here.

But all is not lost, I'm doing a distribution service at the moment and the first issue of my 'zine should be out when you're reading this. I'm also doing a tape lable and my first tape is a comp ilation and should be out soon. I hope to have a Lunatic Singe/Binge/Fridge/Fringe live tape out soon for C60+50p and also an Upright Citizens (West Germany) live tape and some records and 'zines. My 'zine will cost (wow!) 5p+SAE or 20p inc P+P so get writing now, address at the end. Also from Lunatic Fridge/Fringe I should have some copies of their 2nd EP (it's good) and some of their undies (makes a change from T shirts) so keep in touch. Anybody with owt to distribute get in touch with me, I can get quite a lot of stuff abroad. Any bands wanting to get stuff out on tapes (C60s preferred but I'll take C90s) and I'll see what I can do.

I hope to have out an A4, 1 sided awful joke sheet (what, the Tory Party manifesto? -Doe) of which I hope Doe will contribute generously that'll be FREE! To prove that Doe is not the only groaning joke teller (fame at last! -Doe), here is one of my very worst classics.....

Q. How can you tell if there's an elephant under you're bed?

A. You're nose is on the ceiling! Ha! Ha!

Well, that's all there is to say really except I hope to meet you all some day, smoke a few JPS and drink some homebrew or tea. Write to me with stuff to go in my 'zine and to find out about my distribution service. Send 10 copies of anything for distributing. Please enclose an SAE or soap the stamp ok! Here's my address then.....LØL, 11 PORTSDOWN PK, COSHAM, PORTSMOUTH, HANTS, ENGLAND. PO6 3XA.....